Hafa Adai!

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'Tourism is back on track'

Members of the Marianas Visitors Authority marketing department greet and give shell leis to the second batch of tourists that came in at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport from Guangzhou, China aboard Sichuan Airlines, early yesterday morning. Sichuan Airlines, which brought in 255 passengers, was the second airline that resumed international flights to the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction on Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25. MVA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Sichuan Airlines resumes flights, brings 255 passengers from Guangzhou

Sichuan Airlines resumed international flights to the CNMI and arrived at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early yesterday morning, carrying 255 passengers from Guangzhou, China.

The Sichuan Airlines flight came in at 3:10am and the tourists were greeted at the airport with a welcome banner by Marianas Visitors Authority staff, who also handed out shell leis.

"It was great seeing the second

See TOURISM on Page 4

DNAP drive-thru canceled

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs would end the drive-through Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program number distribution at the Minachom Atdao in Susupe

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the drive-through DNAP number distributions at Minachom Atdao in Susupe would end today and that only walk-ins would be entertained.

See DRIVE-THRU on Page 4

DNAP might be extended another week

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The processing for Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program could be extended for another week.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he would be pitching the idea of extending for an additional week the DNAP number processing because of the massive number of

See DNAP on Page 4

'Flawless': NASA craft lands on Mars after perilous journey

Engineers celebrate as the InSight lander touch downs on Mars in the mission support area of the space flight operation facility at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Monday, Nov. 26, 2018, in Pasadena, Calif. AP

By MARCIA DUNN
AP AEROSPACE WRITER

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A NASA spacecraft designed to drill down into Mars' interior landed on the planet Monday after a perilous, supersonic plunge through its red skies, setting off jubilation among scientists who had waited in white-knuckle suspense for confirmation to arrive across 100 million miles of space.

Flight controllers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena,

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President Donald Trump strongly defends the U.S. use of tear gas against migrants.

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Police searched a mansion in northwestern Turkey belonging to a Saudi citizen.

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Local

Register for psychological first aid

Mental health providers from the U.S. Public Health Services, in coordination with the Community Guidance Center, are offering multiple opportunities to enrich healing after Super Typhoon Yutu through psychological first aid.

PFA is an evidence-informed approach that is built on the concept of human resilience. PFA aims to reduce stress symptoms and assist in a healthy recovery following a traumatic event, natural disaster, public health emergency, or even a personal crisis.

Emotional distress is not always as visible as a physical injury, but it can be just as painful and debilitating. After going through a life-changing experience it is common to be affected emotionally. Some common reactions are confusion, fear, feelings of hopelessness, feelings of helplessness, sleep problems, physical pain, anxiety, anger, grief, shock, aggressiveness, withdrawal, guilt, shaken religious faith, loss of confidence in self or others.

Human beings all respond differently to disasters. Learning ways to cope and work through the event can build up a person and a community. There will be four sessions available to the public. Each session will last one hour and can accommodate up to 25 participants. The training will be hosted in CGC's conference room, on the second floor of the TSL Plaza.

Sessions will start this Friday, Nov. 30, 2018:

Morning sessions are from 9am to 10am and from 10:30am to 11:30am.

Afternoon sessions are from 1pm to 2pm and from 2:30pm to 3:30pm.

To register or for additional information, contact Wilma Villanueva or Maria Camacho at (670) 323-6560/61. ***(PR)***

Learn about betel nut research at UOG

Members of the community are invited to learn about the latest research at the University of Guam on areca (betel) nut and its links to cancer at an upcoming community seminar. Members of the University of Guam/University of Hawaii Cancer Center Partnership to Advance Cancer Health Equity will be presenting on various research investigations from 3:30pm to 5pm this Thursday, Nov. 29, in Room 131 of UOG's School of Business & Public Administration building.

The seminar will include the following presentations, followed by a question-and-answer session:

■ The Betel Nut Intervention Trial

■ Identification and Application of Improved Biomarkers Reflecting Betel Consumption

■ The Effect of Saliva, Betel Leaf, and Lime on the Extraction of Areca Nut Bioactive Components

■ The Influence of Areca Nut Chewing on the Oral Microbiome

Approximately 600 million people, or 10 percent of the world's population, chew betel nut. It is a behavior commonly practiced in many Asian and Pacific regions. Although there are some documented benefits associated with the consumption of betel nut, chewing poses a greater risk to multiple disease outcomes—oral cancer being a major concern, according to UOG's Cancer Research Center. ***(UOG)***

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CHCC not affected by recalls vs Losartan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. affirmed yesterday that a recent recall on a blood pressure maintenance drug does not affect its pharmacy.

CHCC public information officer Samantha Babauta-Birmingham said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recall of Losartan does not affect CHCC's pharmacy.

"Our pharmacy has not received a spoiled batch of Losartan and therefore has not had to do any recalls," Babauta said in an email message to *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Tribune reached out to CHCC last Nov. 21, to ask about the Losartan recall. National media outlets have noted that some pills contain an impurity known as N-nitrosodiethylamine, or NDEA.

NDEA is a probable human carcinogen, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

The batch of Losartan drugs that were reportedly contaminated was contained in lot number JB8912 that are composed of 100 milligram/25 milligram tablets.

Sandoz Inc., a company that develops, manufactures, markets, and distributes pharmaceutical products, issued a voluntary nationwide recall last Nov. 8, 2018, of one lot of Losartan due to the detection of NDEA impurity in the pill.

"This impurity, which is a substance that occurs naturally in certain foods, drinking water, air pollution, and industrial processes, has been classified as a probable human carcinogen as per International Agency for Research on Cancer," the company noted in the FDA website.

Alongside the Losartan recall, the FDA also reported that an E. coli outbreak linked to romaine lettuce has affected 43 people in 12 states in the U.S. while an additional 22 people in Canada have become ill.

With the new announcement, CHCC last Monday issued a warning advising against the consumption of romaine lettuce and retailers and restaurants to not serve the vegetable "…until we learn more about the outbreak."

According to the statement, CHCC noted that the FDA is currently tracing the source of the romaine lettuce eaten by the people who became sick.

CHCC advises the public to not eat romaine lettuce that is in their possession and to discard it, regardless if some had been eaten and no one has gotten sick.

"This…includes all types or uses of romaine lettuce, such as whole heads of romaine, hearts of romaine, and bags and boxes of precut lettuce and salad mixes that contain romaine, including baby romaine, spring mix, and Caesar salad," the statement warned, adding that if it is unknown whether a salad contains romaine lettuce, it would be much safer to discard it altogether.

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Most areas on Saipan now have power

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Most areas on Saipan now have power.

Seven out of nine feeders are partially online, while water production is at 81 percent.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho said yesterday that Feeders 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7, and Kiya 1 and 2 Feeders are partially online.

» 7 out 9 feeders partially online

The remaining feeders that are offline or have no power are Kiya 3 and 4.

Kiya 3 covers the areas surrounding Middle Road from Sugar King onward to Gualo Rai, while Kiya 4 covers Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, and Chalan Kiya to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Under Kiya 3, Camacho said that, as of Monday, power crews continue to repair and install conductors, transformers and hardware from the Gualo Rai traffic light to McDonald's.

Camacho said that last Friday, primary lines from Taro Sue to the Gualo Rai traffic light was completed and ready to be energized.

Under Kiya 4, Camacho said they completed the installation of new concrete power poles and straightened power poles from the Ada Gym to the Chalan Kanoa post office traffic light last Monday.

On water, CUC reported that 105 of the 131 water wells are operating or at 81 percent.

Sixty-five water wells or 62 percent are online with the CUC power grid and 40 water wells or 38 percent are online with Federal Emergency Management Agency generators.

'USPS working with FEMA to ensure delivery of checks'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The U.S. Postal Service is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that CNMI residents receive their disaster assistance checks following a recent mishap with addresses.

In light of the recent disaster brought by Super Typhoon Yutu, FEMA offered immediate financial assistance to eligible typhoon victims worth $500.

Due to misunderstandings with CNMI addresses and the absence of a home numbering system in the CNMI, some checks failed to make it to intended recipients.

According to an email from U.S Postal Service strategic communications specialist Duke Gonzales, despite the unanticipated misunderstanding, the USPS is working closely with FEMA to ensure that checks make it to their respective typhoon victim.

"We are working closely with FEMA to facilitate the delivery of their assistance checks to Saipan residents," he said.

"We understand how important these checks are to our customers and will make every effort to ensure their timely and accurate delivery," he added.

Unverified reports stated that the USPS in the CNMI has been returning FEMA checks because they were addressed to lot numbers and home mail delivery system is not used on Saipan or Tinian.

In an email from FEMA public information officer Paul Corah, he confirmed that checks were being sent back to the agency. "We ran into a small problem. Checks are being returned to FEMA," he said.

Paul said that FEMA has been working to mail the checks to P.O. boxes.

"We are sending the checks to the P.O. boxes the survivors gave FEMA. These P.O. boxes have to be up to date, with fees paid so survivors can get their money. We ask if any survivors are expecting a check that has not arrived to contact FEMA right away," he said.

Individuals who are still waiting on their disaster assistance checks are encouraged to visit the nearest Disaster Recovery Center to talk with FEMA representatives or call the FEMA hotline.

NASA

From Page 1

California, leaped out of their chairs, screaming, dancing and hugging, upon learning that InSight had arrived on Mars, the graveyard for a multitude of previous missions.

"Touchdown confirmed!" a flight controller called out just before 3 p.m. EST, instantly dispelling the anxiety that had gripped the control room as the spacecraft made its six-minute descent.

Because of the distance between Earth and Mars, it took eight minutes for confirmation to arrive, relayed by a pair of tiny satellites that had been trailing InSight throughout the six-month, 300-million-mile (482-million-kilometer) journey.

The two satellites not only transmitted the good news in almost real time, they also sent back InSight's first snapshot of Mars just 4½ minutes after landing.

The picture was speckled with dirt because the dust cover was still on the lander's camera, but the terrain around the spacecraft looked smooth and sandy with just one sizable rock visible—pretty much what scientists had hoped for. Better photos are expected in the days ahead, after the dust covers come off.

It was NASA's—indeed, humanity's—eighth successful landing at Mars since the 1976 Viking probes, and the first in six years. NASA's Curiosity rover, which arrived in 2012, is still on the move on Mars.

"Flawless," declared JPL's chief engineer, Rob Manning. "This is what we really hoped and imagined in our mind's eye," he added. "Sometimes things work out in your favor."

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, presiding over his first Mars landing as the space agency's boss, said: "What an amazing day for our country."

InSight, a $1 billion international project, includes a German mechanical mole that will burrow down 16 feet (5 meters) to measure Mars' internal heat. The lander also has a French seismometer for measuring quakes, if they exist on our smaller, geologically calmer neighbor. Another experiment will calculate Mars' wobble to reveal the makeup of the planet's core.

"In the coming months and years even, history books will be rewritten about the interior of Mars," said JPL's director, Michael Watkins.

Seven hours after touchdown, NASA reported that InSight's vital solar panels were open and recharging its batteries.

Over the next few "sols"—or Martian days of 24 hours, 39½ minutes—flight controllers will also assess the health of InSight's all-important robot arm and its science instruments.

Many Mars-bound spacecraft launched by the U.S., Russia and other countries have been lost or destroyed over the years, with a success rate of just 40 percent, not counting InSight.

NASA went with its old, straightforward approach this time, using a parachute and braking engines to get InSight's speed from 12,300 mph (19,800 kph) when it pierced the Martian atmosphere, about 77 miles (114 kilometers) up, to 5 mph (8kph) at touchdown. The danger was that the spacecraft could burn up in the atmosphere or bounce off it.

The three-legged InSight settled on the western side of Elysium Planitia, the plain that NASA was aiming for. Project manager Tom Hoffman said the spacecraft landed close to the bull's-eye, but NASA did not have yet have the final calculations.

He said that it was hard to tell from the first photo whether there were any slopes nearby, but that it appeared he got the flat, smooth "parking lot" he was hoping for.

Museums, planetariums and libraries across the U.S. held viewing parties to watch the events unfold at JPL. NASA TV coverage was also shown on the giant screen in New York's Times Square, where crowds huddled under umbrellas in the rain.

The 800-pound (360-kilogram) InSight is stationary and will operate from the same spot for the next two years, the duration of a Martian year.

DRIVE-THRU

From Page 1

While the number of DNAP registrations has already reached over 14,000 just on Saipan, Hunter noted that only a trickle of people showed up during the DNAP number distributions from 9am to 3pm yesterday.

Not many were getting numbers, said Hunter, each time he passed by the pavilion to check on the number distributions. "I just don't see the justification to set up [the drive-through distribution site] in Minachom Atdao again since it was set up to handle massive amounts of traffic."

"It's already unnecessary," he added.

Hunter noted that the decision does not need the approval of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

According to Hunter, there are about14,000 households on Saipan and Tinian. As of 10am yesterday, over 14,300 numbers have already been distributed on Saipan since Sunday.

"We are not going to deny DNAP numbers for people," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "[The Nutritional Assistance Program staff] will address [whether DNAP numberholders are qualified for DNAP] at the site in As Lito."

According to Hunter, the NAP office printed 18,000 paper numbers for DNAP.

FEMA and FNS approved to set up the new DNAP number distribution site at the Minachom Atdao to avert massive traffic at the smaller two-lane road in the NAP office in As Lito.

The original intention of the location change was to prevent camping for benefits, which occurred last Saturday for the first day of DNAP numbering on Sunday.

DNAP

From Page 1

applicants that have yet to be processed.

Hunter noted that, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Service and DNAP staff, they were only able to process 1,000 applicants last Monday from 9am to 3pm.

"…We have requested for an extension for another week. We are just waiting for that agreement in writing," he said, adding that unless the proper paperwork has been provided, nothing is official.

Last Monday evening, DCCA announced new schedules for DNAP number processing; only 1,000 were processed during the allotted time.

In order to reflect the change, the schedule, if followed, would note that at least 3,400 numbers would have been processed by the end of Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018.

Number D03401 through D04400 would be processed today, and so on until Saturday, where an expected 7,400 numbers will have been processed, according to Hunter.

The remaining numbers beyond 7,400 would be issued an interview date at a later announcement.

"…It will be extended out another week, but it has yet to be official," said Hunter.

He noted that FNS officials verbally informed him that it would be extended but, unless there is paperwork, it is all not official.

As of 10am yesterday morning, DNAP numbers are already over 14,300 on Saipan. Hunter noted on several occasions that the total number of households on Saipan and Tinian amount to about 14,000 combined.

TOURISM

From Page 1

batch of tourists coming in early this morning," said MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim, who was among the MVA staff who welcomed the visitors.

Kim said the CNMI is definitely back on track to meeting the expected numbers of arrivals for the months of December and onwards.

Jeju Air was scheduled to arrive yesterday afternoon from Incheon, Seoul, South Korea.

China Eastern Airlines will resume flights today, Wednesday, from Beijing, China. Beijing Capital Airlines will arrive tomorrow afternoon, Thursday, from Hangzhou, China.

Hong Kong Airlines will resume flights tomorrow, Thursday midnight, from Hong Kong. Sichuan Airlines will also arrive early tomorrow morning from Shanghai, China.

HK Express was the first commercial airline to resume international flights to the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction on Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25. The airline arrived on Saipan last Friday with a full load of 180 passengers.

Commonwealth Ports Authority board committee for airport operations chair Barrie C. Toves said yesterday that they are happy that the Saipan airport has already resumed nighttime operations.

That airline companies are resuming international flights is good news, Toves said.

"We're expecting next year in March something that is [going to] help the economy," said Toves, without elaborating. Right now, he said, CPA is just trying to repair all the damage and get back to normal operations.

"I'm [happy] that we worked this fast. We were not expecting that the airport to be ready at this time," Toves said.

He said CPA obtained a broad spectrum of support from the Executive Branch, the Office of the Governor, and federal agencies to get the airport back to normal.

"I really extend my appreciation to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Security, and the governor's leadership in getting the resources that we needed to do our recovery efforts," Toves said.

Citing that the commuter terminal building at the Saipan airport is still in disarray because of Yutu's fury, Toves said there's still a lot of work to do.

"That's my biggest concern, coming from the island of Rota," said Toves, adding that they will soon have an airport facilities meeting. He said that CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio will brief the CPA board on the status of recovery efforts.

SDA gives $100K away for Yutu recovery

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Seventh Day Adventist in the CNMI has given away $100,000 among Saipan and Tinian residents to aid in the community's recovery following Super Typhoon Yutu.

Over the last two weekends, the SDA has been distributing $100 to $500 worth of Ace Hardware vouchers to eligible families.

As of last Sunday, the SDA was able to distribute the entire $100,000 to over 240 individuals on Tinian and Saipan.

The vouchers are only redeemable at participating Ace Hardware stores and is intended to help people buy supplies to rebuild their homes.

The voucher program was practiced to ensure no foot traffic and to ensure that the aid is given to families who need it most.

According to SDA chief financial officer Ernie Lacorte, SDA volunteers went out in groups to personally assess damage homes and to personally hand out the invoice/voucher.

"We were just designated certain villages…we concentrated on the south because it was heavily damaged," he said.

Lacorted said that what made their job easier was that they were able to partner with the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and got a map to homes that were categorized as major damaged homes and assessed those homes first.

Lacorte added that the amount of damage to the home determines the amount of help they receive. The maximum amount that can be received is $500.

According to Lacorte, the Seventh Day Adventist headquarters in North America has a branch that that attends to disaster outreach or relief and the branch allotted $100,000 for Saipan and Tinian.

"What we did was we allotted $20,000 for Tinian and $80,000 here on Saipan and we covered as many homes as we could with this funding," he said.

The SDA volunteers gave assistance to homes that fell under four categories; affected, minor damage, major damage, and completely destroyed.

Adventist Community Service director Warren Creed said that both distributions on Saipan and Tinian went smoothly and SDA wishes they could help more.

As of last Sunday, there has been no word of another distribution until SDA North America decides to allot more funding to aid in Yutu recovery.

SBA: Applicants must be legal to avail of loan

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The U.S. Small Business Administration said that applicants should be legally able to avail of the loans that they are offering as the CNMI recovers from two destructive typhoons—Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota in September and Super Typhoon Yutu on Saipan and Tinian last month.

As of Nov. 23, Friday, the SBA had already approved a total of 32 loans—29 for homes and three for businesses—totaling to $1,004,600 ($979,500 and $25,100) for Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota. There are already 61 home application loans approved for Super Typhoon Yutu amounting to $2,998,400, while businesses on Saipan and Tinian have yet to apply.

"Qualified applicants must be U.S. citizens or not citizens that are qualified. As long as you are legally able to assume a loan, unlike the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where parents can apply on behalf of their U.S. citizen kids," said SBA public information officer Cynthia Cowell.

"If there are other questions about citizenship or qualifications of applying, we suggest that they go to the Disaster Recovery Center," said Cowell.

On Saipan, the DRC is at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center with FEMA.

A separate Business Recovery Center is located at the Saipan Chamber Commerce at the Marianas Business Plaza, formerly Nauru Building, in Susupe and they are open from 8am to 4pm from Mondays to Saturdays.

The amount and the terms could be up to 30 years—both depending on the need of the applicant.

"We can make your loans up to 30 years, but we will determine what kind of affordable payment works for you on a monthly basis and we will also determine the loan terms after that. The loan process will be decided on the needs of the applicant when assessed," added Cowell. "For example, if you only lost a car, then we won't be giving you a $200,000 loan, although that's personal property. As much as possible…we're going to try and get you back in the position you were the day before Yutu or Mangkhut hit."

Cowell said homeowners and renters, businesses of all sizes, and private and non-profit organizations can avail of their loans. "The SBA is willing and wants to help the [CNMI] as much as we can."

She added that businesses impacted by Yutu could apply to avail of loans up to $2 million to either repair fixtures, their facilities, buildings, parking lots, and inventories. "Economic injury disaster loans can be up to $2 million to help with working capital. To stay in business when times are low."

Business that did not have any physical damage but their business is off because of the storm can also apply for an SBA loan, Cowell said. "Let's say the grocery is closed due to power outage, even for a couple of days. The loan is just for working capital, until things pick up again."

Homeowners, meanwhile, can get up to $200,000 to either repair and replace their homes, including mitigation to strengthen their houses or to make it typhoon-resilient. Homeowners and renters can also get $40,000 in loans to replace their personal property, including cars damaged during the typhoon.

"We have mitigation loans available and that is something that we could talk about in your loan processing. Mitigation loan is always a good thing," said Cowell.

She is also encouraging people to apply for a loan, even if they think that they won't be needing one. "If you think that you don't want one or won't be needing another loan, we ask you to still apply."

"Because, if you decide that you don't want a loan, that won't be a problem. No harm, no foul, and no charge. If you decide you only need a part of the loan, you only pay back what you actually needed."

Interest rates for homeowners and renters are as low as 2 percent, private and non-profit at 2.5 percent, and businesses at 4 percent. Landlords that have property damage could also apply as a business while tenants would be eligible for personal property loans.

Businesses and residents affected by Typhoon Mangkhut have until Nov. 28, 2018, to submit their applications for property damage while economic injury applications for businesses is due by July 1, 2019.

As for Super Typhoon Yutu victims with property damage, both business and residents, they have until Dec. 26, 2018, to submit their loan applications while for businesses that want to avail of economic injury loans will have a July 26, 2019, deadline.

For more information, visit sba.gov/disaster.

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Chamber seeks BPOY nominees

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominees for its "Business Person of the Year" award for 2018.

Chamber members gets to nominate the business person they deem fit to receive the award. As per tradition, the winner will be announced on Jan.19, 2019, during the Installation Dinner, when new Chamber officers will be installed.

The nominees must be a member of the Chamber and must reside on Saipan. Qualifying criteria includes active personal participation in the Chamber's committees, events, programs, and meetings; active community involvement and contributions; and being widely recognized for his/her area of expertise.

Possible nominees are Chamber members who support the local workforce, active in Chamber events and programs, and exhibit outstanding efforts for both their businesses and the CNMI community.

The nominations are kept confidential and are voted on by the past recipients of this award in a closed meeting.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce website and completed nomination forms should be sent to email executive@saipanchamber.com not later than Jan. 7, 2018.

Past recipients include Ivan Quichocho of TanHoldings (2017), Michael Sablan of Triple J Saipan (2016), Alex Youn of AC Pacific (2015), Vicky Benavente of Pacific Islands Club (2014), Marcie Tomokane of Bank of Guam (2013), Marcia E. Ayuyu of RJ Corp. and Anthony Pellegrino of Saipan Sea Ventures (2012), Bob Jones of Triple J Enterprises (2011), Jim Arenovski of Delta Management (2010), Ben Babauta of DFS (2009), Kathryn Barry of KB Communications (2008), K.J. Kim of Asiana Airlines (2007), Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery (2006), David M. Sablan of Century Insurance (2005), Mark Erwin of Continental Airlines (2004), Jerry Tan of TanHoldings (2003), Alex Sablan of Saipan Shipping Co. (2002), Jay Jones of Triple J Motors (2001), Wendi Herring of PIC (2000), Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS (1999), Joe Ayuyu of McDonalds (1998), Ed Camacho of Pacific Financial (1997), and Efrain Camacho of EFC Engineers (1996).

For more information, call the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Call for 2019 Pacific leaders conference

Applications are now being accepted for emerging youth leaders in the U.S. territories in the Pacific, Hawaii, and the Freely Associated States who want to join the 2019 Young Pacific Leaders Conference.

The U.S. territories in the Pacific are American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI, while FAS are the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech is encouraging youth leaders to take advantage of this opportunity.

Domenech said the Interior fully supports the 2019 conference, which is also sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

The conference will be held in Fiji in the first week of March next year, with virtual activities starting in February. YPL leaders' activities is scheduled in May.

The deadline for the submission of applications is on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 12mn (New Zealand time). All participants are expected to be selected by Dec. 21, Friday.

This will be the sixth edition of the YPL, with Suva acting the hosts of the conference. Youth leaders in the Pacific, between 25 to 35 years old, would exchange knowledge and skills for the advancement of the region's economy and close cooperation.

Culturalvistas.org said that information sessions, skills workshops, and site visits will be provided to all participants "to deepen [the] participants' knowledge and abilities to address issues related to YPL's four programmatic themes."

The themes are education, environment and resource management, civic leadership; and economic and social development.

Organizers are expecting 42 applicants to be selected from Hawaii, the U.S. territories, FAS, and eligible Pacific states—Australia and New Zealand.

All participants would be eligible in competing for small grants at the end of the conference. The small grants could support projects for their communities.

For more information, visit culturalvistas.org or email YPL2019@culturalvistas.org. ***(Jon Perez)***

Senate hopes to act on HB 20-120

The Senate is hoping to act on House Bill 20-120 once the Fiscal Affairs Committee finishes finalizing its draft report on the legislation that would provide payment on the salary increases that were suspended during the government's financial austerity measures.

House vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) introduced H.B. 20-120.

The Senate deferred action on H.B. 20-120 during its session last Oct. 9, with Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) referring the bill back to the FA committee headed by Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

Palacios, in last week's session, asked Senate floor leader Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) to leave the bill on the calendar where they hope to act on it. "When I assigned this legislation to the committee, there's an understanding that the committee make efforts to act on [H.B. 20-120]."

"I will give [the FA committee] time to brief the [Senate] members where we are in this particular legislation. I ask the floor leader to leave it on the calendar as we defer action on this."

Hofschneider and the FA committee was supposed to meet yesterday to further discuss the bill and finish the draft report. Hofschneider said that his committee already met with the CNMI Office of Personnel Management and Civil Service Commission.

"It was a considerable amount of discussion that produced information for us to provide additional provisions and clarifications. We certainly did not do that to prolong the passage of the bill," said Hofschneider.

"There's a grave concern on the financial impact of the liability of the legislation. It is not clarified and the committee called a meeting the following week for any amendment, but Super Typhoon Yutu came and we weren't able to meet."

He added that the committee had already came out with a draft report with some amendments. "We're going to adopt a proposal and sign off with the committee report. We're trying to pass it [H.B. 20-120]."

"We want to make sure that we really take a look at the legislation. If the bill becomes law, we want everyone to be sourcing out funding to settle this obligation, which I support. We want everybody on the same page when it comes to financial impact."

Sen. Sixto K. igisomar (R-Saipan) said the government should act on the financial impact of H.B. 20-120. "Because these people also deserve an increase. And… they were not given the same opportunity."

"I do hope our Fiscal Affairs chair would finalize the draft committee report," added Igisomar, who is also a member of the committee. ***(Jon Perez)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships For Success

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center's Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds, through the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships For Success (SPF PFS) grant for eligible organizations in the CNMI to apply. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Details of the grant and funds available are listed below.

I. **Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships For Success (SPF PFS): FY2019 $425,000**
(Each applicant, with the exception of a previous SPF PFS sub grant recipient, is able to apply for a sub grant award of up to $40,000. A previous SPF PFS sub grant recipient is able to apply for a sub grant award of up to $100,000.)

The planning and implementation of this grant award will focus on four primary goals:

1. **Prevent or reduce consequences of underage drinking and adult problem drinking and drinking and driving with emphasis in persons ages 12-20**
2. **Reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse with emphasis on persons ages 12-25**
3. **Collaborate with other behavioral health prevention areas utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework**
4. **Evaluate all activities**

The SPF PFS provides awarded communities with the opportunity to build and/or strengthen an effective and sustainable evidence-based prevention program that is responsive to the needs of the CNMI community. Community programs are required to implement evidence-based prevention programs focused on the following priorities that have been determined by Community Guidance Center's Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit:

1) **Underage Drinking and/or**
2) **Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse**

This grant award requires a Strategic Prevention Framework to help guide communities toward successful program management process following the five steps below:
1) Assessment: Accurately assess community problems, assets, and resources;
2) Capacity: Describe current capacity and/or plans to build capacity;
3) Planning: Develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan;
4) Implement: Identify the evidence-based program, policy, or practice to be implemented;
5) Evaluate: Process and impact evaluation through monitoring and documentation of program implementation.

In order to be eligible to apply, an applicant must be a non-profit organization or government agency with at least twenty-five active youth participants, have not been defunded as a SPF SIG and/or SPF PFS sub grant recipient, AND required to implement an evidence-based curriculum.

The Project Director will make the final recommendation in consultation and collaboration with the CGC Director on applications based off of proficiency areas aimed at sustaining substance abuse prevention outcomes. The grant application guidelines detail the information required.

Sub-Grant Application forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit Office at the CHCC: Community Guidance Center, conveniently located on the 2nd Floor of TSL Plaza (Beach Road, Garapan) or the Substance Abuse Prevention offices on Rota and Tinian.

All completed applications must be submitted to the CHCC: CGC Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit office on Saipan and the CGC personnel on Tinian and Rota no later than 3:30 p.m. on December 3, 2018.

For more information, please contact Ms. Kimberly S. Tudela at 323-6560 or kmstudela@gmail.com (Saipan); Mr. Keith Nabors, Prevention Coordinator (Tinian) at 433-6572 or tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com; or Ms. Benedicta San Nicolas, Behavioral Health Coordinator (Rota) at 532-9461 or benedicta.sannicolas@gmail.com.

/s/Esther L. Muna
CEO, CHCC

/s/Nadine H. Sablan
CGC Director

Consumers warned against romaine lettuce

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is advising consumers to not eat any romaine lettuce, and retailers and restaurants not serve or sell any, until the CHCC learns more about the *E. coli* outbreak in the U.S. mainland affecting the product.

In a statement on Monday, CHCC's Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Programs with the Bureau of Environmental Health said the outbreak is now being investigated and, until the investigation is done, for consumers to avoid using romaine lettuces.

While the outbreak is under investigation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention advises against consuming the product. The FDA is conducting a traceback investigation to determine the source of the romaine lettuce eaten by people who became sick.

The United States multistate outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli O157:H7 (E. coli O157:H7) infections have been linked to romaine lettuce.

Consumers who have any type of romaine lettuce in their home should not eat it and should throw it away, even if some of it was eaten and no one has gotten sick.

This advice includes all types or uses of romaine lettuce, such as whole heads of romaine, hearts of romaine, and bags and boxes of precut lettuce and salad mixes that contain romaine, including baby romaine, spring mix, and Caesar salad.

If you do not know if the lettuce is romaine or whether a salad mix contains romaine, do not eat it and throw it away.

Wash and sanitize drawers or shelves in refrigerators where romaine was stored.

Restaurants and retailers should not serve or sell any romaine lettuce, including salads and salad mixes containing romaine.

Protect your health by following these simple tips:

■ Wash your hands. Wash hands after using the restroom or changing diapers, before and after preparing or eating food, and after contact with animals.

■ Don't prepare food or drink for others when you are sick.

■ Don't cross-contaminate food preparation areas. Thoroughly wash hands, counters, cutting boards, and utensils after they touch raw meat.

■ Wash fruits and vegetables before eating, unless the package says the contents have been washed.

For HHS updates on this matter, access https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2018/o157h7-11-18/index.html and https://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm626330.htm

To report a notifiable disease or possible E.coli infection, contact Dr. Paul White, the Territorial Epidemiologist in the PHEP and ELC Program, by email atsurveillance@chcc.gov.mp or call the CHCC at (670) 234-8950.

To report a possible source of contaminated romaine lettuce (produce sold in stores or served in restaurants) call BEH office at 234-8950 Ext. 2920/2915, or email BEH director, John Tagabuel, at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

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PH Consulate Helps Out

Volunteers Ladyvir Canape and Flor Miranda hand out 20-lb bags of rice to Filipino households in San Antonio during last Saturday's relief outreach to various locations on Saipan. The outreach was done by honorary Philippine consul to the CNMI Eli Arago, his core volunteers, and members the United Filipino Organizations, using funds donated by Guam's Filipino community. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The team also fanned out to Filipino communities in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ulysses T. Sabuco, one of the CNMI core team-volunteers of honorary Philippine consul to the CNMI Eli Arago, assist in the outreach relief. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ted Orbeta, right, and Anthony Alegre (not in photo), also volunteered in the Koblerville relief distribution from the donation of the Guam Filipino community. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Honorary Philippine Consulate core volunteer Ariel Mariano in As Lito. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Filipino Organizations president Marlon Rigaton and volunteer Ladyvir Canape distribute bags of rice in San Antonio. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amid a heavy downpour, the Honorary Philippine Consulate team, UFO, and volunteers pressed on with their relief drive in Chalan Kanoa. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-007

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A ROAD GRADER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Supply and Delivery of a Road Grader for the Department of Public Works, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **November 21, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A Pre-bid Conference is not required, however, all questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 30, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-19-IFB-007**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time December 10, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, December 10, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 10, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **December 19, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, December 20, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on December 10, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Art exhibit at UOG's Isla Center for the Arts

A selection of artwork by Guam artists will be on display in an upcoming exhibition at the University of Guam's Isla Center for the Arts.

The biennial juried exhibition, called "Creative Hands: Selected Works by Pacific Artists," will open on Dec. 6, with a reception from 6pm to 8pm, and the exhibit will remain open until Jan. 18.

The juror for the exhibition is Dr. Nancy Mithlo, a professor in the Department of Gender Studies at the University of California Los Angeles who has extensive curatorial experience. She has curated and co-curated more than 21 exhibitions, including nine displays for the Venice Bienniale between 2001 and 2017. She holds master's and doctoral degrees in anthropology from Stanford University (Calif.) and a bachelor's in anthropology and art from Appalachian State University (N.C.).

"Chamorro Engineer," a pyrographic pen piece by Richard Manglona.
ISLA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Out of 118 submissions from 23 artists, Mithlo selected 26 works created by 15 artists for the exhibition.

The selected artists include Ron Canos, Julius Sotomayor Cena, Jeanie DeCandia, John Dierking, Judy Flores, Linda Frank, Olga Guse, Dorathina Herrero, Sarah Johnson, Tiger Kim, Alexa Kyung Lim, Richard Manglona, Rich Olmo, Robin Olmo, and Dawn Lees Reyes.

The Isla Center for the Arts is located in House 15 in the Dean's Circle on the UOG campus. Gallery hours are from 10am to 5pm Monday through Friday and 10am to 2pm on Saturday. It is closed on Sunday and holidays. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. ***(UOG)***

"Garden Contrast," a watercolor by Ron Canos.
ISLA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Military training at warning areas 517 and 12, at former golf course

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 and Warning Area 12, from 10am to 3pm on Nov. 28-30.

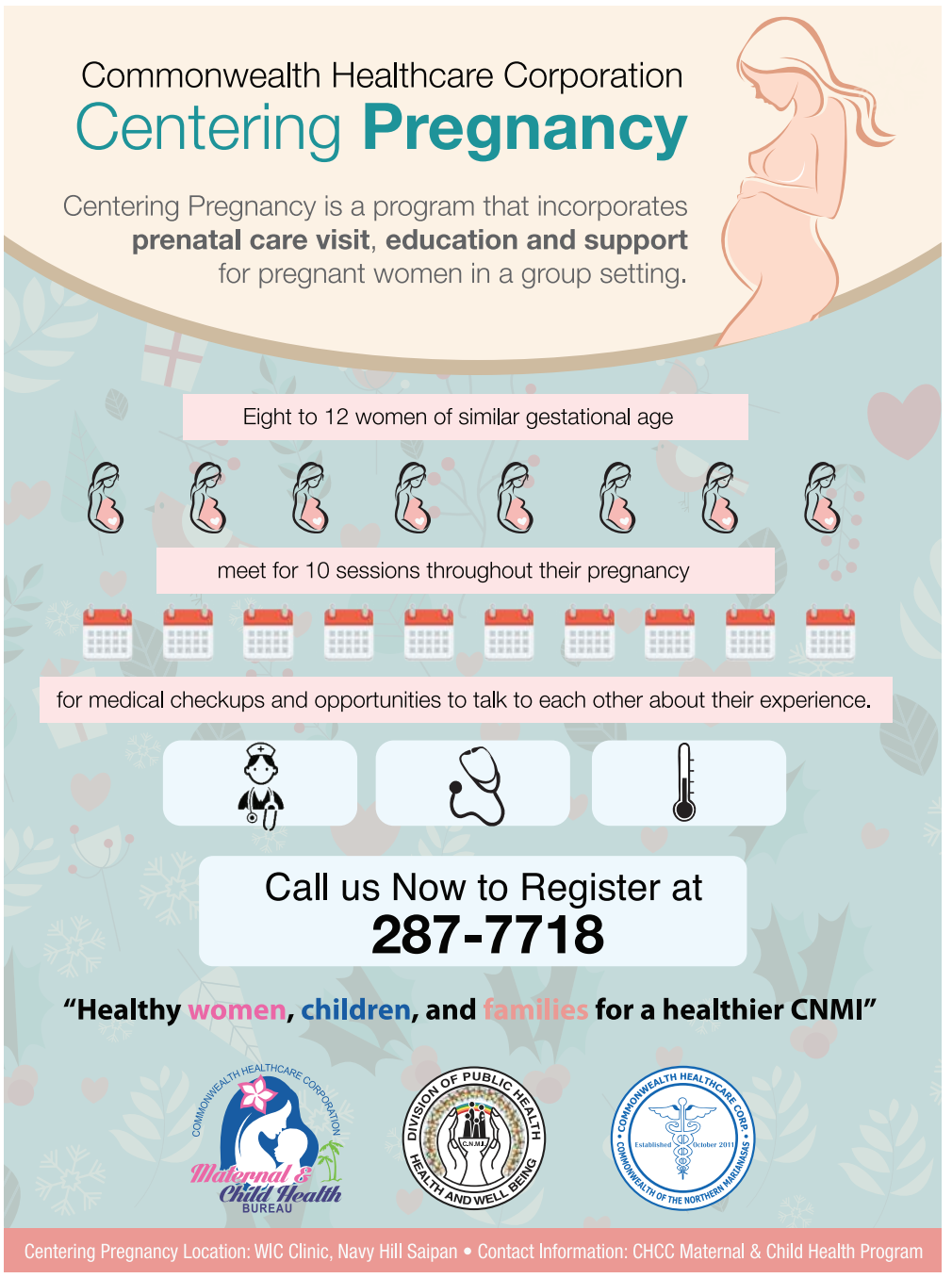
The military will also conduct training at the former Adm. Nimitz golf course in Barrigada from 5am to 6pm on Dec. 1.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters.

W-12 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-12 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. ***(PR)***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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

California's wildfire risks will worsen unless major changes are made

With the Camp and Woolsey fires collectively killing dozens of people, destroying more than 20,000 structures and burning more than 250,000 acres in Butte County and northwest of Los Angeles, Californians may consider this historic devastation and think it's as bad as wildfires can get. Sadly, it's not. In 2016, scientists from Cornell University, the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University and the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies released a study predicting that the U.S. Southwest has a 99 percent chance of a mega-drought lasting decades. In August, the California Natural Resources Agency issued a report based on more than 40 peer-reviewed studies that was no less gloomy, warning that the state faces decades of hotter, deadlier weather. This month's damage could easily be eclipsed.

That is why there is an urgent need for a comprehensive local, state and federal response to the wildfire threat—one that reconsiders previous assumptions and starts from scratch in evaluating all that can be done to minimize the loss of life and property.

This has already sunk in to some degree in Sacramento, the state capital. Since 2008, the state has mandated that any structure built in very high fire-risk areas must feature specific fire-resistant designs and materials that protect against flying embers. This year, lawmakers expanded those restrictions to cover more land and funded more forest management.

But a new CALmatters report makes it clear that politicians' focus on how homes are built misses the crucial importance of where they are built.

"Between 1990 and 2010, an estimated 45 percent of all new housing units built in California were constructed in what experts refer to as the wildland-urban interface—where the state's cul-de-sac'd suburban subdivisions and rural communities meet its flammable forests and shrub fields," CALmatters reported. This is an invitation to disaster. Local and state authorities need to be far more cautious about approving subdivisions in these areas. This would complicate the response to California's housing shortage, but it is the only prudent approach.

And while President Donald Trump's comments about "raking" forests led to ridicule, it's true that forest management has been a neglected tool.

California's wildfire threat won't ever be erased. But it can be greatly reduced with vigorous enforcement of smart rules, more vigilance by homeowners and the use of constantly updated best practices by local, state and federal authorities. What Gov. Jerry Brown calls "the new abnormal" of extreme fire risks demands a commensurate response. Let that be the sad, lasting legacy of this month's wildfire victims.

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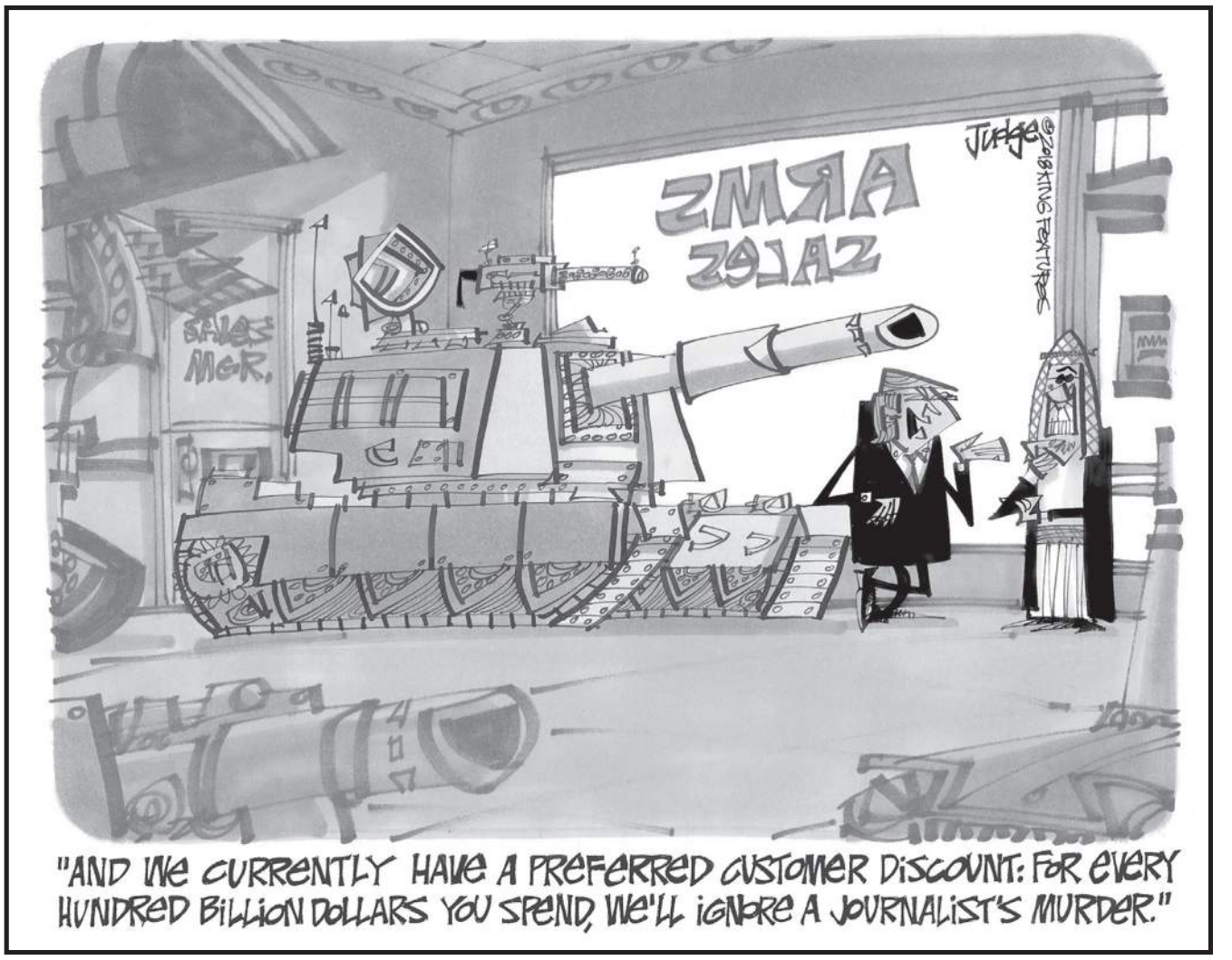
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America is poorer than it thinks

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion.*

What does it mean to be poor? Currently there are two basic ways to define poverty. To get a better measure of who needs help—and a better sense of how to provide it—society needs a third definition.

The first definition is absolute poverty—essentially, material destitution. Human beings need food, water and shelter, and if we can't afford these things, life is pretty miserable. In the U.S., the federal government has poverty guidelines that are based on food consumption: If you make less than about three times the minimum amount people need to spend on food each year, you're poor.

By this measure, a single adult living on $12,140 or less is considered poor as of 2018. For a family of four, the figure is $25,100. There is also a Supplemental Poverty Measure that includes not just food but clothing, shelter and utilities. Thanks in part to increased government assistance, U.S. poverty according to this measure has fallen, especially for children.

Critics of the federal poverty guidelines argue that these numbers are too low, thanks to growing inequality—in the 1960s, the federal poverty level was about half of the median income, but is now well below that. Moreover, as a country grows richer, hunger becomes less common, so using it as measure of poverty becomes less useful. When the middle class is defined by having "a chicken in every pot and a car in every backyard" (a campaign slogan from 1928), then simply having a chicken would seem to indicate that you're not poor. But when your middle-class neighbors have several cars, several televisions and spacious homes, you might feel poor.

This is where the second measure—relative poverty—comes in. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development defines poverty this way: If you earn less than half of the median income, you're poor. By this measure, the U.S. is doing a bit worse than other rich countries:

But this, too, feels unsatisfying. Imagine a future U.S. in which the median American is fabulously wealthy—with flying cars, robot servants, and multiple overseas vacations every year. Should someone with half as many flying cars, robot servants and overseas vacations be considered poor? That seems like a stretch.

Intuitively, then, it seems that a third definition of poverty is necessary—one that measures more than just material well-being but also takes into account economic growth.

Luckily, there is just such a concept: It's called material security. Psychologist Abraham Maslow believed that safety ranked second only to food and shelter as a basic human need. Someone who has food and a roof over their head today, but doesn't know whether they will tomorrow, should be considered poor.

Imagine a 55-year-old single woman with diabetes working a part-time job making close to minimum wage. Thanks to government assistance, her total income is $15,000 a year. But if she loses her job or has a medical emergency—both of which, as Matthew Desmond's book "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" illustrates, are sadly common—she will probably become homeless. That in turn will make it very hard to get a new job, or to pay for her future health-care needs. In short, her situation is very precarious.

As Maslow would predict, this kind of insecurity causes extreme stress. And this precariousness exists along several dimensions—housing, health care, income, the risk of violence—which makes it hard to capture in a single measure. Still, there are some existing measures that could be used to help create a composite picture of security-based poverty.

For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture tracks food insecurity, a survey-based measure of how worried people are that their food will run out. Economists track income volatility, which measures swings in earnings from year to year. This kind of risk has been on the rise in the U.S.:

The risk of eviction, meanwhile, can be roughly measured by the percentage of people's incomes that they spend on shelter each month. As of 2015, 17 percent of Americans spent half or more of their incomes on rent.

A reasonable, common-sense definition of poverty should include not just an absolute measure of material deprivation and a relative gauge of a person's situation compared to the rest of society. It should also strive to measure how secure people feel—in their homes, their health, and their jobs.

This new measure might well show that poverty in the U.S. is worse than the current statistics say. But an accurate view of a problem is the first step toward addressing it. And eliminating poverty should be a priority of any wealthy society.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

MCS shares messages of appreciation

As part of Mount Carmel School's annual Thanksgiving celebration, the Mount Carmel School family shared messages of appreciation for everyone in the community and from around the world who have helped and are continuing to help with relief and recovery efforts in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Dear donors and philanthropists: Thank you for helping us in our time of need. From near and far, whether through financial contributions or in-kind donations, you have provided much needed relief and have helped everyone in our school and in our community recover from Super Typhoon Yutu. They say that the worst times can bring out the best in people, and the worst of this natural disaster has definitely brought out the best in you. So, while times are still hard, we remember all that you have done for us and all that your help means to us. You are the light in the darkness that fills us all with hope.

— Mount Carmel School's leadership team (delivered by school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero)

Dear linemen from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Guam, Palau, and Colorado: Hafa adai, alii, and hello to you! We are the senior class of Mount Carmel School, the graduating class of 2019. We all just want to formally thank you for your support in our islands' recovery efforts, and we appreciate all of you for coming to our islands in an effort to restore our power. Without all of you coming together and helping us, the recovery progress we are making would have been much slower. But thanks to your hard work and dedication, some of the villages in our island now have power and water, and we are continuing to make progress. Biba Palau, Guam, CNMI, and Colorado! Together, we are "CNMI Strong."

—Mount Carmel School's seniors (delivered by Gary Camacho)

Dear men and women in the armed services and law enforcement: We don't know what it is like to be in your shoes so we owe you an incredible amount of gratitude and appreciation for all that you have done for us. At times like these, we are glad to say that we can count of you for help and support. From things like passing out MRE's and relief goods, to picking up debris on the side of the road, and for your service, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you. We thank you very much for your aid in the aftermath of the devastating Typhoon Yutu and the sacrifices you have made for this island, our country, and its people. Thank you for defending peace, liberty, and freedom here in our home and all around. We salute you all for your hard work, thank you.

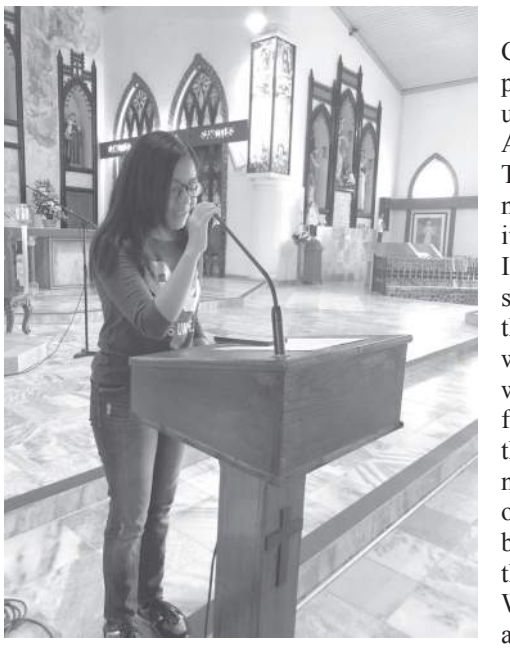
—Mount Carmel School's juniors (delivered by Kalea Borja)

Dear government leaders, including Gov. Torres, Mayor Apatang, Homeland Security and FEMA: We thank you for your hard work and untiring dedication you have provided and are providing to restore our island. Thank you for continuously working hard to ensure that the people of the Marianas are safe and informed. The work you do truly helps, and we can see it through the positive spirit of recovery in the community. Your hard work and effort helps bring together our Marianas. We are truly thankful for your dedication and the decisions you have to make, whether big or small, that impact our lives. We are grateful that those decisions are always made with good intentions that yield great outcomes, and continuously bring us all closer together as one Marianas...a strong Marianas.

— Mount Carmel School's sophomores (delivered by John Isaac San Nicolas)

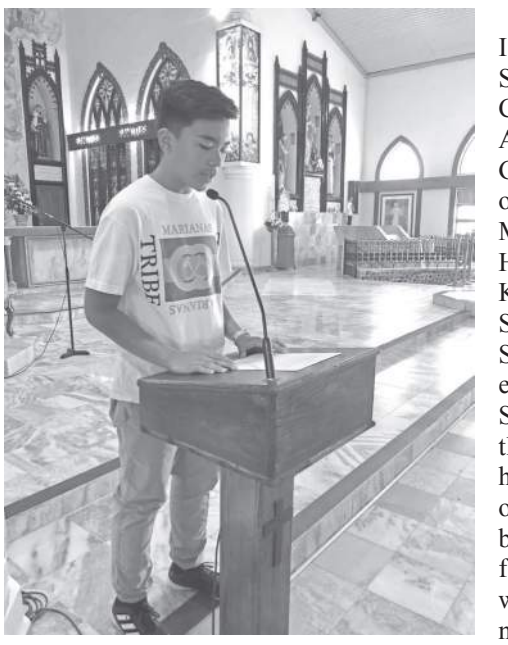
Dear nonprofit organizations, including the American Red Cross, Marianas Young Professionals, the Samaritan's Purse, the Salvation Army, and many more: Thank you for helping out our island. We appreciate all the things you have done to contribute to the people of the Marianas' recovery efforts. From distributing free meals and providing free water, to give to those in need and everything that you all have done, we commend your actions. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you and we appreciate you all.

— Mount Carmel School's freshmen (delivered by Tessie Schweiger)



Dear Mount Carmel School parents, faculty, staff, and AlumKnights: Though it may not seem like it at times, I think we speak for all the students when we say we are thankful for everything you do, not only for our school but for us, the students. We appreciate all the time, money, energy, and effort all of you invest to make our school the best it can be. We thank you also for all the help you have given us, especially through rough times like now after Super Typhoon Yutu. Not only have you given us the help we need, but also with the continuous support in our daily lives, you have created a family of students that are there for each other through thick and thin. You have created a society in which students can interact with each other, in and out of class, a society where students interact and have more of a reason to come to school other than the learning aspects of it. In conclusion we just want to say we love you guys and thank you for being the greatest supporters Mount Carmel could ever have not only in but out of school as well.

— Mount Carmel School's 8th Grade sudents (delivered by Jill Mallari)



Dear Saipan International School, Grace Christian Academy, Green Meadows School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School: We thank you for helping us at our school get back on our feet. When we were in need, you stepped up and helped us, and we are very thankful for that. Without your help, we would not have been able to open our school. We are so thankful that you came and helped us make our campus safe for us students to learn. You helped us even if you and your family had damages of your own. So thank you so much. We hope that if or when the time comes, we can also help you. Thank you again for helping us rebuild, brick by brick, book by book. Knight strong, we will rise!

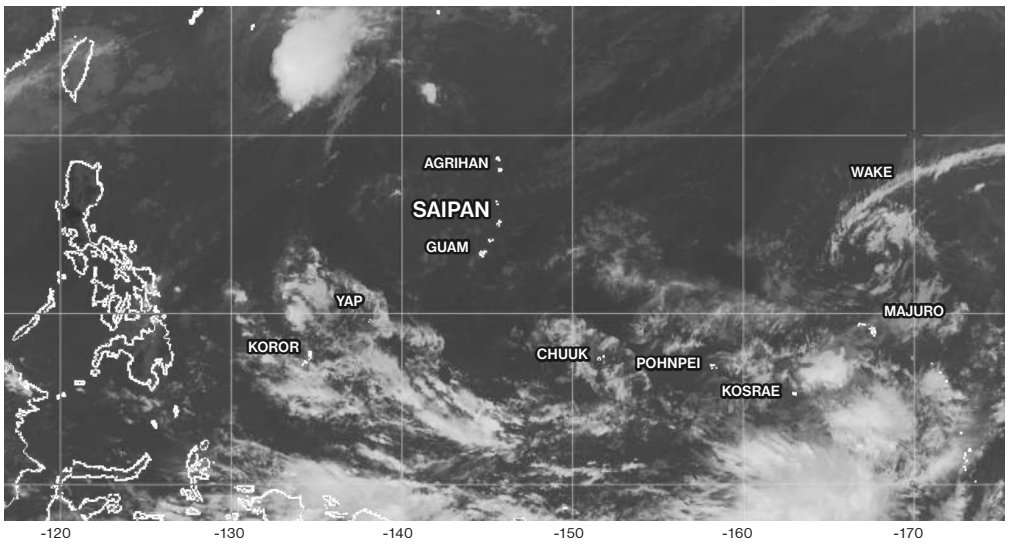
— Mount Carmel School's 7th Grade students (delivered by Vicente Reyes)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼76°	▲89° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:27 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Man-yi is now over 1000 miles to the northwest of Guam and continuing to move farther from the area. For more information on Tropical Storm Man-yi, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO HEADER WTPN31 PGTW and the National Weather Service under WMO HEADER WTPQ31 PGUM. Invest 93W, is centered just north of Kosrae near at 7N163E, about 115 miles north of Kosrae and 330 miles east of Pohnpei. Invest 93W is the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. The system is currently very disorganized and shows little development or movement. 93W will continue to be monitored closely over the next few days. For more information on the TCFA, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO HEADER WTPN21 PGTW.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	46° / 25°
Hong Kong	Sunny	75° / 68°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 69°
London	Rain	57° / 52°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 50°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Miami	Thunderstorms	67° / 58°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	44° / 38°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Paris	Showers	52° / 48°
Busan	Sunny	59° / 41°
Rome	Sunny	54° / 39°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 45°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	52° / 30°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	41° / 33°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET
05:14 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.42
12:34 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.98
6:18 PM	LOW TIDE	1.22
10:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.71

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:00 AM	10:47 PM
Thursday	-	11:52 AM	11:47 PM
Friday	-	12:41 AM	-
Saturday	12:45 AM	1:26 PM	-
Sunday	1:40 AM	2:09 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – *temporarily suspended*

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily *resume from Nov 27*

Temporarily suspended:

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) – *resume from Nov 28*

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) – *resume from Nov 28*

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) – *resume from Nov 26*

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – *resume from Nov 27*

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4 *resume from Nov 28*
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7 *resume from Nov 22*
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – *temporarily suspended*

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily *resume from Nov 27*

Temporarily suspended:

TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 28*

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 28*

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 26*

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 27*

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7 *resume from Nov 28*
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7 *resume from Nov 22*
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6 *resume from Nov 22*
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Global trade is at stake as Trump and Xi come face to face

WASHINGTON (AP)—To hear President Donald Trump tell it, he was made for a moment like this: A high-stakes face-off. A ticking clock. A cagey adversary.

The man who calls himself a supreme dealmaker will have the opportunity this week to put himself to the test. The question is whether he can defuse a trade war with China that is shaking financial markets and threatening the global economy—and perhaps achieve something approximating a breakthrough.

Trump is to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, during the Group of 20 summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Friday and Saturday. Unless the two leaders can achieve a truce of sorts, their conflicts will likely escalate: On Jan. 1, the tariffs Trump has imposed on many Chinese goods are set to rise from 10 percent to 25 percent, and Beijing would likely retaliate.

Most analysts say they doubt Trump and Xi will reach any overarching deal that would settle the dispute for good. The optimistic view is that the two sides may agree to a cease-fire that would buy time for more substantive talks and postpone the scheduled escalation in U.S import taxes.

Yet no one really knows. Each side seems prepared to wait out the other in a conflict that could persist indefinitely.

In advance of the meeting, Trump has sounded his usual note of boastful confidence. Speaking to reporters on Thanksgiving Day, he said:

"I'm very prepared. You know, it's not like, 'Oh, gee, I'm going to sit down and study.' I know every stat. I know it better than anybody knows it. And my gut has always been right."

Most trade analysts are skeptical that any significant agreement is likely this week.

"Expectations should be very low," said Wendy Cutler, vice president of the Asia Society Institute and a former U.S. trade official who negotiated with China. "We need to be very clear-eyed. It's going to be a very difficult negotiation. The issues at hand don't lend themselves to quick solutions."

The trade war erupted last fall after Trump imposed import taxes on $250 billion of Chinese goods, and Beijing retaliated with tariffs on U.S.

AP

Romaine Lettuce still sits on the shelves as a shopper walks through the produce area of an Albertsons market Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018, in Simi Valley, Calif.

exports. The justification for the U.S. move, according to Trump, is that Beijing has long deployed predatory tactics in its drive to supplant America's technological dominance. The administration alleges—and many trade experts agree—that Beijing hacks into U.S. companies' networks to steal trade secrets and forces American and other foreign companies to hand over sensitive technology as the price of access to China's market.

Beijing disputes those allegations and asserts that Trump's sanctions are merely an effort to hinder an ambitious rival.

Besides the scheduled escalation in U.S. tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese goods—an additional $50 billion in Chinese imports already face the higher tax—another threat looms: Trump has threatened to tax $267 billion more in Chinese imports. At that point, just about everything Beijing ships to the United States would face a higher import tax.

Growing concerns that the trade war will increasingly hurt corporate earnings and the U.S. economy are a key reason why U.S. stock prices have been sinking. As of Friday's close, the Standard & Poor's 500 index has shed roughly 10 of its value since setting a record high Sept. 20.

Joining other forecasters, economists at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development last week downgraded their outlook for global economic growth next year to 3.5 percent from a previous 3.7 percent. In doing so, they cited the trade conflict as well as political uncertainty.

Some big U.S. companies, in reporting quarterly earnings in October, warned that they were absorbing higher costs from Trump's increased tariffs, which have been imposed not only on Chinese goods but also on imported steel and other goods from other countries.

"We need some certainty," said Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council and a former American diplomat. "The U.S. and China cannot go into a trade war and not affect global markets ... We need to resolve our differences."

GM to lay off up to 14K workers, close as many as 5 plants

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors will cut up to 14,000 workers in North America and put five plants up for possible closure as it abandons many of its car models and restructures to focus more on autonomous and electric vehicles, the automaker announced Monday.

The reductions could amount to as much as 8 percent of GM's global workforce of 180,000 employees.

The restructuring reflects changing North American auto markets as manufacturers continue to shift away from cars toward SUVs and trucks. In October, almost 65 percent of new vehicles sold in the U.S. were trucks or SUVs. That figure was about 50 percent cars just five years ago.

GM is shedding cars largely because it doesn't make money on them, Citi analyst Itay Michaeli wrote in a note to investors.

"We estimate sedans operate at a significant loss, hence the need for classic restructuring," he wrote.

Hours after the announcement, President Donald Trump said his administration and lawmakers were exerting "a lot of pressure" on GM. He said he told the company that the U.S. has done a lot for GM and that if its cars aren't selling, the company needs to produce ones that will.

Trump, who has made bringing back auto jobs a big part of his appeal to Ohio and other Great Lakes states that are crucial to his re-election, also said he was being tough on General Motors CEO Mary Barra.

President Donald Trump says his administration and lawmakers are exerting "a lot of pressure" on General Motors in response to its decision to cut up to 14,000 workers in North America and possibly shutter up to five plants. (Nov. 26)

At a rally near GM's Lordstown, Ohio, plant last summer, Trump told people not to sell their homes because the jobs are "all coming back."

The layoffs come amid the backdrop of a trade war between the U.S., China and Europe that likely will lead to higher prices for imported vehicles and those exported from the U.S. Barra said the company faces challenges from tariffs but she did not directly link the layoffs to them.

The planned reduction includes about 8,000 white-collar employees, or 15 percent of GM's North American white-collar workforce. Some will take buyouts while others will be laid off.

At the factories, around 3,300 blue-collar workers could lose jobs in the U.S. and another 2,600 in Canada, but some U.S. workers could transfer to truck or SUV factories that are increasing production. The cuts mark GM's first major downsizing since shedding thousands of jobs in the Great Recession.

The company also said it will stop operating two additional factories outside North America by the end of next year, in addition to a previously announced plant closure in Gunsan, South Korea.

General Motors Co.'s preemptive strike to get leaner before the next downturn likely will be followed by Ford Motor Co., which has said it is restructuring and will lay off an unspecified number of white-collar workers. Toyota Motor Corp. also has discussed cutting costs, even though it's building a new assembly plant in Alabama.

GM isn't the first to abandon much of the car market. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles got out of small and midsize cars two years ago, while Ford announced plans to shed all cars but the Mustang sports car in the U.S. in the coming years.

Barra told reporters that GM doesn't foresee an economic downturn and is making the cuts "to get in front of it while the company is strong and while the economy is strong."

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1

Restoration of Electric Power Distribution System on Saipan Following Super Typhoon Yutu

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to design, restore and commission (including without limitation all design, engineering, supervision, materials procurement and mobilization, installation, testing, commissioning and handover) of its power distribution system on Saipan as more fully described in the Statement of Work.

The solicitation seeks proposals from legally recognized business entities authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (or which will be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth before execution of the agreement) to restore and rebuild its electric power distribution grid on Saipan.

The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided emailed to the interested parties upon request, or may be downloaded fromwww.cucgov.org/procurement/available-bids-and-rfp/. Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **November 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A site survey of the affected areas by Prospective Proposers is highly recommended. Prospective Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions and do their own preliminary assessments prior to submitting the proposal. A site survey of affected areas will be provided upon request to CUC, Power T&D Division. Please email Power Division Manager, Lee Lieto via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org for scheduling.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1 – RESTORATION OF ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON SAIPAN FOLLOWING SUPER TYPHOON YUTU"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 30, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due in whole or in part to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under any anticipated contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including without limitation any and all excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. In particular, Contractors will be required to execute a contract which contains required provisions in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and which are set forth in Exhibit D to the Contract which is included the RFP package.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Proposers are advised that this project is being procured as an emergency procurement under the authority of the Hon. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pursuant to 1 CMC §20144 (c) and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and that ordinary procurement regulations do not apply. Time is of the essence in order to restore power to the people of Saipan. As such, no protests will be entertained.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

Nation

Trump strongly defends use of tear gas on caravan migrants

SAN DIEGO (AP)—President Donald Trump is strongly defending the U.S. use of tear gas at the Mexican border to repel a crowd of migrants that included angry rock-throwers but also barefoot, crying children.

Critics denounced the border agents' action as overkill, but Trump kept to a hard line.

"They were being rushed by some very tough people and they used tear gas," Trump said Monday of the previous day's encounter. "Here's the bottom line: Nobody is coming into our country unless they come in legally."

At a roundtable in Mississippi later Monday, Trump seemed to acknowledge that children were affected, asking, "Why is a parent running up into an area where they know the tear gas is forming and it's going to be formed and they were running up with a child?"

Without offering evidence, he claimed that some of the women are not really parents but are instead "grabbers" who steal children so they have a better chance of being granted asylum in the U.S.

The showdown at the San Diego-Tijuana border crossing has thrown into sharp relief two competing narratives about the caravan of migrants hoping to apply for asylum but stuck on the Mexican sider. Trump portrays them as a threat to U.S. national security, intent on exploiting America's asylum law, but others insist he is exaggerating to stoke fears and achieve his political goals.

U.S. border agents in San Diego fired tear gas on hundreds of migrants protesting on the Mexican side of the border on Sunday after some of them attempted to get through the fencing and wire separating the two countries. (Nov. 26)

The sheer size of the caravan makes it unusual.

"I think it's so unprecedented that everyone is hanging their own fears and political agendas on the caravan," said Andrew Selee, president of the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank that studies immigration. "You can call it scary, you can call it hopeful, you can call it a sign of human misery. You can hang whatever angle you want to on it."

President Donald Trump swats at the fake snow that was dropping from the ceiling as he arrives to speaks at a rally for Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Monday, Nov. 26, 2018, in Biloxi, Miss. AP

Trump rails against migrant caravans as dangerous groups of mostly single men. That view featured heavily in his speeches during the midterm election campaign when several were hundreds of miles away, traveling on foot. Officials have said some 500 members are criminals, but haven't backed that up with details on why they think so. On Monday, Trump tweeted the caravan at the border included "stone cold criminals."

Mario Figueroa—Tijuana's social services department director who is overseeing operations at the sports complex where most of the migrants in the caravan are staying—said as of Friday that of the 4,938 staying there, 933 were women, 889 were children and 3,105 were men, which includes fathers traveling with families along with single men.

The U.S. military said Monday that about 300 troops who had been deployed in south Texas and Arizona as part of a border security mission have been moved to California for similar work. The military's role is limited largely to erecting barriers along the border

and providing transportation and logistical support to Customs and Border Protection.

Democratic lawmakers and immigrant rights groups blasted the border agents' Sunday tactics.

"These children are barefoot. In diapers. Choking on tear gas," California Governor-elect Gavin Newsom tweeted. "Women and children who left their lives behind—seeking peace and asylum—were met with violence and fear. That's not my America."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said the administration's concerns about the caravan "were borne out and on fully display" Sunday.

McAleenan said hundreds—perhaps more than 1,000—people attempted to rush vehicle lanes at the San Ysidro crossing. Mexican authorities estimated the crowd at 500. The chaos followed what began as a peaceful march to appeal for the U.S. to speed processing of asylum claims.

After being stopped by Mexican authorities, the migrants split into groups. On the west side of the crossing, some tried to get through razor-wire fencing in a concrete levee that separates the two countries. On the east side, some pulled back a panel of fencing made of Army surplus steel landing mats to create an opening of about 4 feet, through which a group of more than 30 people crossed, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Others made it over a steel fence farther east.

McAleenan said four agents were struck with rocks but were not injured because they were wearing protective gear.

Border Protection agents launched pepper spray balls in addition to tear gas in what officials said were on-the-spot decisions made by agents. U.S. troops deployed to the border on Trump's orders were not involved in the operation.

"The agents on scene, in their professional judgment, made the decision to address those assaults using less lethal devices," McAleenan told reporters.

The scene was reminiscent of the 1980s and early 1990s when large groups of migrants rushed vehicle lanes at San Ysidro and overwhelmed Border Patrol agents in nearby streets and fields.

U.S. authorities made 69 arrests on Sunday. Mexican authorities said 39 people were arrested in Mexico.

The incident left many migrants feeling they had lost whatever possibility they might have had for making asylum cases.

Isauro Mejia, 46, of Cortes, Honduras, looked for a cup of coffee Monday morning after spending Sunday caught up in the clash.

"The way things went yesterday ... I think there is no chance," he said.

Mexico's Interior Ministry said in a statement it would immediately deport those people arrested on its side and would reinforce security.

Border Patrol agents have discretion on how to deploy less-than-lethal force. It must be both "objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out law enforcement duties"—and used when other techniques are not sufficient to control disorderly or violent subjects.

Zinke says Northern California fire costs likely in billions

PARADISE, Calif. (AP)—Costs associated with a deadly Northern California wildfire will likely be in the billions, said U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday.

Zinke, who was back in the town of Paradise on Monday, said he has never witnessed such devastation. The Camp Fire killed at least 85 and leveled thousands of homes.

"There's a lot of things I'd rather spend this federal money on rather than repairing damage of things that have been destroyed," he said. Zinke nodded to other public services, such as improving visitor experiences at Yosemite National Park or thinning forests.

The U.S. government has distributed more than $20 million in assistance for people displaced by the catastrophic wildfire in Northern California, a Federal Emergency Management Agency official said Monday as hundreds of searchers kept looking for more human remains.

The massive wildfire that destroyed nearly 14,000 homes in the town of Paradise and surrounding communities was fully contained over the weekend after igniting more than two weeks ago.

FEMA spokesman Frank Mansell told The Associated Press that $15.5 million has been spent on housing assistance, including vouchers for hotel rooms. During an interview in the city of Chico, he said disaster response is in an early phase but many people will eventually get longer-term housing in trailers or apartments.

FEMA also has distributed $5 million to help with other needs, including funeral expenses, he said.

About 17,000 people have registered with the federal disaster agency, which will look at insurance coverage, assets and other factors to determine how much assistance they are eligible for, Mansell said.

Meanwhile, the list of people who are unaccounted for has dropped from a high of 1,300 to the "high 200s" Monday, Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said. He said the number of volunteers searching for the missing and dead has been reduced to about 200 Monday from 500 Sunday after many of those reported missing were found over the weekend.

Hawaii's false missile alert leads to new recommendations

HONOLULU (AP)—The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's inspector general has recommended changes to the nation's emergency alert system after Hawaii officials in January mistakenly warned the public about an incoming ballistic missile.

The report issued last week calls for mandating that software vendors include message preview and cancelling features in their alert software. It recommends requiring that software vendors provide training to officials using their products.

A Hawaii Emergency Management Agency employee mistakenly sent the missile alert to cellphones and broadcasters on Jan. 13, triggering panic until the agency sent another message 38 minutes later notifying people it was a false alarm.

Homeland Security's inspector general prepared the report after U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii asked it to examine the Federal Emergency Management Agency's role in the false missile alert.

Multiple investigations blamed Hawaii's false missile alert on human error and inadequate management safeguards. Both of these factors fall outside FEMA's purview.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency uses software with message preview and cancelling features.

The individual who sent the alert believed a real attack was imminent even though his colleagues understood they were participating in an exercise.

He selected the missile alert warning template from a drop-down menu, and clicked 'yes' in response to a prompt that read, 'Are you sure that you want to send this Alert?'

Hawaii officials successfully cancelled the message five minutes after it was sent, which prevented its retransmission over radio and television airwaves and stopped it from being sent to cellphones that were turned off when the alert was initially issued.

Lack of training wasn't found to be a concern in Hawaii, the inspector general's report said.

As a result, the inspector general's recommendations don't address the causes behind Hawaii's false alert. But they do address alert problems identified in other states.

For example, the state of Georgia once intended to send an alert about a winter storm warning but instead sent a confusingly worded message that referenced a civil emergency. Its software didn't allow the state to cancel the message.

Asia

Gene-edited baby claim by Chinese scientist sparks outrage

HONG KONG (AP)—Scientists and bioethics experts reacted with shock, anger and alarm Monday to a Chinese researcher's claim that he helped make the world's first genetically edited babies.

He Jiankui of Southern University of Science and Technology of China said he altered the DNA of twin girls born earlier this month to try to help them resist possible future infection with the AIDS virus—a dubious goal, ethically and scientifically.

There is no independent confirmation of what He says he did, and it has not been published in a journal where other experts could review it. He revealed it Monday in Hong Kong where a gene editing conference is getting underway, and previously in exclusive interviews with The Associated Press.

Reaction to the claim was swift and harsh.

More than 100 scientists signed a petition calling for greater oversight on gene editing experiments.

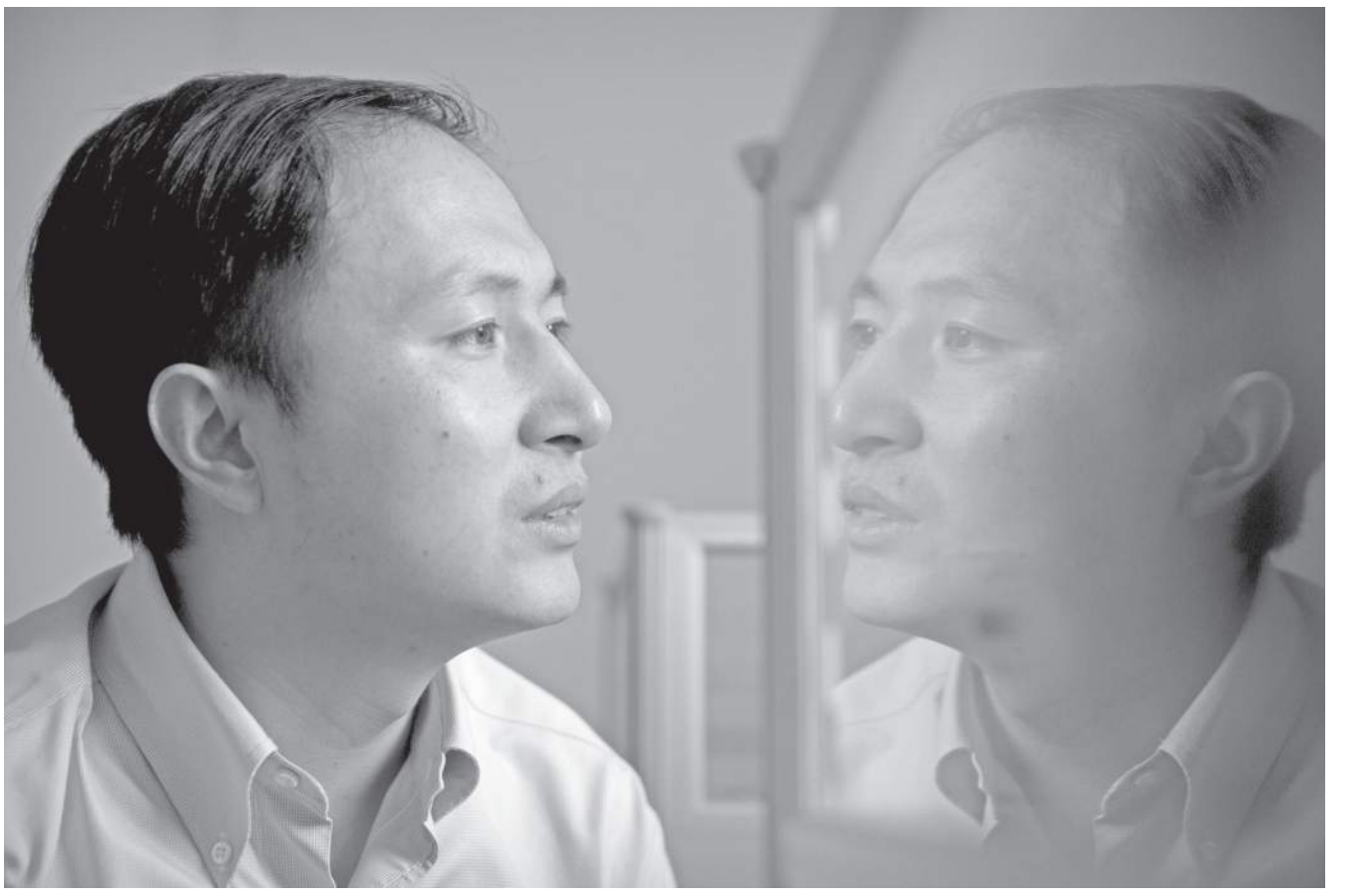
The university where He is based said it will hire experts to investigate, saying the work "seriously violated academic ethics and standards."

A spokesman for He said he has been on leave from teaching since early this year but remains on the faculty and has a lab at the university.

A Chinese researcher claims that he helped make the world's first gene-edited babies. But not everyone supports this controversial experiment. (Nov. 26)

Authorities in Shenzhen, the city where He's lab is situated, also launched an investigation.

And Rice University in the United States said it will investigate the involvement of physics professor Michael Deem. This sort of gene editing is banned in the U.S., though Deem said he worked with He on the project in China.



AP

In this Oct. 10, 2018 photo, He Jiankui is reflected in a glass panel as he works at a computer at a laboratory in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province. Chinese scientist He claims he helped make world's first genetically edited babies: twin girls whose DNA he said he altered.

"Regardless of where it was conducted, this work as described in press reports violates scientific conduct guidelines and is inconsistent with ethical norms of the scientific community and Rice University," the school said in a statement.

Gene editing is a way to rewrite DNA, the code of life, to try to supply a missing gene that is needed or disable one that is causing problems. It has only recently been tried in adults to treat serious diseases.

Editing eggs, sperm or embryos is different, because it makes permanent changes that can pass to future generations. Its risks are unknown, and leading scientists have called for a moratorium on its use except in lab studies until more is learned.

They include Feng Zhang and Jennifer Doudna, inventors of a powerful but simple new tool called CRISPR-cas9 that reportedly was used on the Chinese babies during fertility treatments when they were conceived.

"Not only do I see this as risky, but I am also deeply concerned about the lack of transparency" around the work, Zhang, a scientist at MIT's Broad Institute, said in a statement. Medical advances need to be openly discussed with patients, doctors, scientists and society, he said.

Doudna, a scientist at the University of California, Berkeley and one of the Hong Kong conference organizers, said that He met with her Monday to tell her of his work, and that she and others plan to let him speak at the conference Wednesday as originally planned.

"None of the reported work has gone through the peer review process," and the conference is aimed at hashing out important issues such as whether and when gene editing is appropriate, she said.

Doudna is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Zhang receives grant support from the organization, which also supports AP's Health & Science Department.

Another conference leader, Harvard Medical School dean Dr. George Daley, said he worries about other scientists trying this in the absence of regulations or a ban.

"I would be concerned if this initial report opened the floodgates to broader practice," Daley said.

India studying island to see if man's body can be recovered

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian officials have traveled repeatedly in recent days near the remote island where an American missionary was killed by people who have long resisted the outside world. But they have not set foot onto North Sentinel Island since the killing, and it remains unclear if they will.

"They are a treasure," Dependera Pathak, director-general of police on the Andaman and Nicobar island groups, said of the Sentinelese people. "We cannot go and force our way in. We don't want to harm them."

The Sentinelese, who scholars believe are descendants of Africans who migrated to the area about 50,000 years ago, survive on the small, forested island by hunting, fishing and gathering wild plants. Almost nothing is known of their lives, except that they attack outsiders with spears or bows and arrows.

American John Allen Chau was killed by islanders in mid-November after paying fishermen to smuggle him to the island, where outsiders are effectively forbidden by Indian law. The fishermen told authorities that they saw the Sentinelese bury Chau's body on the beach. The notes Chau left behind say he wanted to bring Christianity to the islanders.

A boat carrying police and other officials approached North Sentinel on Friday and Saturday, watching the Sentinelese through binoculars. On Saturday the tribesmen were armed with spears and bows and arrows, but they did not attempt to shoot them at the authorities, Pathak said.

"We watched them from a distance and they watched us from a distance," he said.

Officials have not given up on recovering the body, he said. But they are moving very gingerly, studying the 2006 killing of fishermen whose boat had drifted onto the island.

"We are looking carefully at what happened then, and what (the Sentinelese) did," he said. "We are consulting anthropologists to see what kind of friendly gesture we can make."

The islanders buried the two fishermen on the beach in 2006, but dug up the corpses after a few days and propped them upright. Authorities apparently never recovered those bodies, and the killings were never investigated.

There has been no significant contact with the Sentinelese for generations. Anthropologists used to occasionally drop off gifts of coconuts and bananas, but even those visits were stopped years ago.

Anthropologist P.C. Joshi said he understands why authorities want to recover the body.

"If there is a death, then the cause of death should be known. It's important," said Joshi, a professor at Delhi University.

"Of course, we can't prosecute" the islanders if they killed Chau, he said. Plus, he noted, it may already be too late to learn much from the body, since the heat and humidity on North Sentinel will cause rapid decomposition.

"Ultimately, it's becoming futile," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

6 whales refloated after stranding on New Zealand beach

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Conservation workers and volunteers in New Zealand managed to refloat six surviving stranded whales on Tuesday and were hoping the animals would soon swim away into deeper water. Ten pygmy killer whales were initially found stranded Sunday at Ninety Mile Beach on the North Island. Two whales later died there. On Monday evening, crews transported the remaining animals on hay-lined trailers to Rarawa Beach on the opposite coast of the peninsula, where the sea conditions were calmer. The trip took about an hour, said Department of Conservation ranger Jamie Werner. Werner said the whales were then placed in a tidal stream to relieve the pressure on their bodies. But he said the whales became too buoyant and were moved onto the sand, where volunteers kept a vigil through the night, regularly cooling the animals with water. Werner said about 200 people showed up to help, and groups of a dozen per whale lifted the animals into the sea Tuesday morning and refloated them on the high tide. He said that two of the weaker whales beached themselves again. "They were calling to the other whales in the pod, and they were coming back in," he said. "So we made a quick decision to euthanize them. It's actually phenomenal to see how in tune they are with each other."

French-American man abandons attempt to swim Pacific

TOKYO (AP)—A French-American man has given up his attempt to swim across the Pacific Ocean after a storm broke the mainsail of his support ship, organizers said Monday. Ben Lecomte, who had completed about 1,500 nautical miles (2,780 kilometers) of the 5,000-mile (9,260-kilometer) journey, called the premature end to the swim a deep disappointment. "We've faced treacherous winds, rain and ocean swells that have forced us to alter our course, and the irreparable damage to the sail is an insurmountable blow," he said in a news release. The announcement was made by Seeker, a San Francisco-based online science publisher that partnered with Lecomte and has been documenting his attempt. Lecomte, of Austin, Texas, set out on June 5 from Japan's Pacific coast and was swimming an average of eight hours a day. Violent storms had already forced him to interrupt the swim after 500 nautical miles and return to Japan in late July. The mainsail broke on Nov. 10. The damaged ship and Lecomte are slowly making their way to Hawaii. They are collecting data on plastic pollution in the ocean, one of the scientific aims of the swim.

World

Turkish police search villas in Khashoggi investigation

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) —Police searched a mansion in northwestern Turkey belonging to a Saudi citizen on Monday after investigators determined that the man had been in contact with one of the suspects in the slaying of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Turkish officials said.

Crime scene investigators and other officials, aided by sniffer dogs and a drone, scoured the luxury villa near the town of Termal, in Yalova province, and later expanded their search to the grounds of the neighboring villa, the state-run Anadolu agency reported.

Police spent around 10 hours searching the two villas for the journalist's remains, Anadolu reported, without saying if any evidence or trace had been found.

The Istanbul prosecutor's office said Mansour Othman Abbahussain—a member of a 15-person squad sent from Riyadh to kill Khashoggi—had contacted the mansion's owner, Mohammed Ahmed Alfaozan, by telephone a day before Khashoggi's Oct. 2 killing.

"It is being assessed that this conversation was geared toward the disposal (or) the hiding of Jamal Khashoggi's body after its dismemberment," the prosecutor's statement read. It did not mention any possible findings at the site.

Turkey has maintained pressure on Saudi Arabia over the killing of the U.S.-based columnist for The Washington Post. Khashoggi was a critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

AP

An activist holds up a placard that reads "No to repression of freedom of expression #MBS assassin" on the eve of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's official visit to Tunisia, during a protest to denounce the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, in downtown Tunis, Monday, Nov. 26, 2018.

A 15-member assassination squad sent from Riyadh strangled and dismembered Khashoggi. His remains have yet to be found.

Ankara insists the orders for the killing came from the highest levels of the Saudi government, but not King Salman. The Saudi agents blamed for the killing included some members of the crown prince's security entourage.

Saudi Arabia initially said Khashoggi had walked out of the consulate before shifting its account of what happened amid Turkish intelligence leaks. Riyadh is now seeking the death penalty for five members of the hit squad in a move that appeared to be aimed at defusing international outrage over the killing and distancing the operation from the crown prince.

Saudi prosecutors maintain that the 15-man team sent to Istanbul exceeded its authority when the lead negotiator in the team decided to kill Khashoggi for refusing orders to return.

Anadolu agency, without naming a source, said the owner of the mansion was outside of Turkey at the time of the killing and had not returned in the past two months. The focus of the search was a well on the grounds of the first villa, which was being drained of water with special equipment brought to the scene, the agency reported.

Border clash leaves caravan migrants dejected, worried

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) —A chaotic border clash with choking tear gas fired by U.S. agents left Central American migrants sullen and dejected, with some opting Monday to leave and others worrying the incident may have spoiled their chances at asylum.

Mexican security forces stepped up their presence at a Tijuana sports complex where thousands from the migrant caravan have been sheltered, apparently seeking to avoid a repeat of Sunday's ugly scene. Police blocked the migrants from walking toward the border in the morning, though later on they allowed them to move about freely.

Isauro Mejia, 46, from Cortes, Honduras, went looking for a cup of coffee to shake the morning chill following another night sleeping outside after being caught up in the clashes. Before, he had hoped to be able to press an asylum claim, but now he wasn't so sure.

"The way things went yesterday ... I think there is no chance," Mejia said. "With the difficulty that has presented itself because of yesterday's incidents ... that's further away."

Migrants hoping to apply for asylum in the United States must put their names on a waiting list that already had some 3,000 people on it before the caravan arrived in Tijuana. With U.S. officials processing fewer than 100 claims a day, the wait time for the recent arrivals stands to take months.

U.S. border agents in San Diego fired tear gas on hundreds of migrants protesting on the Mexican side of the border on Sunday after some of them attempted to get through the fencing and wire separating the two countries. (Nov. 26)

That has instilled a sense of desperation among many after their grueling trek from Central America. Sunday's incident began after hundreds marched to the border to try to call attention to their plight. Some attempted to get through fencing and wire separating the countries, prompting volleys of stinging gas.

Cindy Martinez of San Vicente, El Salvador, said she had been about to cross the concertina wire to the U.S. side when the tear gas was launched. She estimated about 20 people had already passed in front of her, and parents begged agents not to unleash the gas because there were young children present.

"I see it as impossible for them to want to give us asylum," she said. "Because of the words that President Donald Trump has said, I think this is impossible."

Martinez, 28, said she was now considering getting work in Tijuana.

Mexico's National Migration Institute reported that 98 migrants were being deported after trying to breach the U.S. border. The country's Interior Department said about 500 people attempted to rush the border, while U.S. authorities put the number at 1,000.

After dispute with Russia, Ukraine to impose martial law

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) —Ukraine's parliament voted Monday to impose martial law in parts of the country to fight what its president called "growing aggression" from Moscow after a weekend naval confrontation off the disputed Crimean Peninsula in which Russia fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels amid renewed tensions between the neighbors.

Western leaders and diplomats urged both sides to de-escalate the conflict, and the U.S. blamed Russia for what it called "unlawful conduct" over Sunday's incident in the Black Sea.

Russia and Ukraine blamed each other in the dispute that further ratcheted up tensions ever since Moscow annexed Crimea in 2014 and threw its weight behind separatists in eastern Ukraine with clandestine support, including troops and weapons.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko asked lawmakers in Kiev to institute martial law, something the country did not do even during the worst of the fighting in the east that killed about 10,000 people.

After a five-hour debate, parliament overwhelmingly approved his proposal, voting to impose martial law for 30 days starting Wednesday morning in 10 of Ukraine's 27 regions—those bordering Russia, Belarus and Moldova's pro-Moscow breakaway republic of Trans-Dniester. The locations chosen were ones that Poroshenko identified as potentially in the front line of any Russian attack. The capital of Kiev is not under martial law.

Ukraine's navy said six Ukrainian seamen were wounded when Russian coast guard vessels opened fire on three Ukrainian ships near the Kerch Strait and then seized them late Sunday. The two nations blame each other. Video shown on Russian TV shows two ships colliding. (Nov. 26)

Poroshenko said it was necessary because of intelligence about "a highly serious threat of a ground operation against Ukraine." He did not elaborate.

"Martial law doesn't mean declaring a war," he said. "It is introduced with the sole purpose of boosting Ukraine's defense in the light of a growing aggression from Russia."

Ukraine's Defense Ministry already announced earlier in the day that its troops were on full combat alert in the country.

The approved measures included a partial mobilization and strengthening of air defenses. It also contained vaguely worded steps such as "strengthening" anti-terrorism measures and "information security" that could curtail certain rights and freedoms.

But Poroshenko also pledged to respect the rights of Ukrainian citizens.

His critics reacted to his call for martial law with suspicion, wondering why Sunday's incident merited such a response. Poroshenko's approval ratings have been plunging, and there were concerns that he would postpone a presidential election scheduled for March.

Good Housekeeping

Conifers bring joy to the cool season landscape

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

There is nothing that adds a thrill to the winter landscape quite like conifers. Much to the chagrin of my wife I could be forever happy gardening among conifers. I love green selections, blue-gray varieties, and then there is nothing that causes my heart to race quite like the gold varieties. Then to add the magic I would like as many shapes and sizes as possible.

My son James, a landscape-guru, just installed a cool season bed for a commercial client measuring several hundred square feet. Over the years this progressive business has given him the opportunity to use large woody nursery stock as temporary or a seasonal attraction to catch the eye and to make a statement with the hundreds of pansies, dianthus, and snapdragons.

This year a colorful conifer garden was planted and may draw the eye even more so than the flowers. Forever Goldy arborvitae, Thuja plicata, a Southern Living Plant Collection conifer, stands out with its 24-karat foliage making a dramatic statement it is grown in combination with the blue-gray of Carolina Sapphire Arizona cypress, Cupressus arizonica, and Emerald Green arborvitae, Thuja occidentalis.

The small round or compact conifers make just as big of an impact. Gold Mop or threadleaf cypress, Chamaecyparis pisifera, and Pancake arborvitae, Thuja occidentalis, also a Southern Living Plant Collections conifer but with blue foliage makes an electrifying, complementary partnership. Supplemented with the golden chartreuse foliage of the dwarf Japanese cedar, Cryptomeria japonica 'globosa nana' and you have to bring out the camera.

TNS PHOTOS

Even in the South the dwarf Alberta spruce will work great as a seasonal plant in a cool season mixed container.

Lemon Zest Cypress is a must have plant for the cool season landscape looking like a Christmas tree surrounded by purple leafed kale.

You can do something similar at your home whether permanent with your regions recommended conifers or seasonal like in Columbus. You will want to select a site with as much sun as possible. This really allows the colors to pop. The conifers and cool-season annuals alike absolutely must have fertile soil with great drainage.

If your soil is tight, heavy clay and not well drained, then plan on amending it with 3- to- 4 inches of organic matter and work the bed to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. The best idea might be to copy what the commercial landscapers do, planting on raised beds accomplished by bringing in a prepared soil mix.

Even though good drainage is paramount, water will be necessary to allow the conifers to maintain their health and appearance and to get roots acclimated and expanded in your bed. It is likewise absolutely critical for the pansies and dianthus or the cool-season color of your choice to explode with new growth, and blooms. Be sure to add a good layer of mulch to keep soil temperatures moderate, conserve moisture and deter weed growth.

In the South the winter season allows us to celebrate like our friends in the north or even the California west coast. If we want to plant a Douglas Fir, or Alberta Spruce or better yet a cluster of three, and grow them as an annual we can do that.

If you don't think this is a trending idea you should look at how many Lemon Cypresses are being sold. This drop-dead gorgeous conifer that is more at home along California's Monterey Bay than the torrid heat and humidity of Georgia, is nonetheless a must-have plant. We cannot pass these by, we love them if even for a season.

Conifers bring joy to the garden, porch patio, and deck. The more colors, sizes, and shapes the happier we will be, whether we are growing them for a season or a lifetime.

Forever Goldy arborvitae and Gold Mop chamaecyparis seem to light up this cool season bed.

Forever Goldy arborvitae and Pancake arborvitae both Southern Living Plant Collection conifers make a picturesque complementary partnership.

The Garden Bug
Making wreaths from natural items has been done since ancient times. In Mediterranean cultures, wreaths worn on the head showed a person's occupation, social rank and achievements; laurel wreaths crowned the victors in the Olympic Games. Wreaths were made from the harvested crops and hung up to show how the gods had blessed the household during the year. In Christian practice, wreaths came to symbolize faith in the unending circle of life.
Source: wikipedia
- Brenda Weaver

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Life & Style

Dictionary.com chooses 'misinformation' as word of the year

NEW YORK (AP)—Misinformation, as opposed to disinformation, was chosen Monday as Dictionary.com's word of the year on the tattered coattails of "toxic," picked earlier this month for the same honor by Oxford Dictionaries in these tumultuous times.

Jane Solomon, a linguist-in-residence at Dictionary, said in a recent interview that her site's choice of "mis" over "dis" was deliberate, intended to serve as a "call to action" to be vigilant in the battle against fake news, flat earthers and anti-vaxxers, among other conduits.

It's the idea of intent, whether to inadvertently mislead or to do it on purpose, that the Oakland, California-based company wanted to highlight. The company decided it would go high when others have spent much of 2018 going low.

"The rampant spread of misinformation is really providing new challenges for navigating life in 2018," Solomon told The Associated Press ahead of the word of the year announcement. "Misinformation has been around for a long time, but over the last decade or so the rise of social media has really, really changed how information is shared. We believe that understanding the concept of misinformation is vital to identifying misinformation as we encounter it in the wild, and that could ultimately help curb its impact."

In studying lookups on the site that trended this year, Dictionary noticed "our relationship with truth is something that came up again and again," she said.

For example, the word "mainstream" popped up a lot, spiking in January as the term "mainstream media," or MSM, grew to gargantuan proportions, wielded as an insult by some on the political right. Other words swirling around the same problem included a lookup surge in February for "white lie" after Hope Hicks, then White House communications director, admitted to telling a few for President Donald Trump.

The word "Orwellian" surfaced in heavy lookups in May, after a statement attributed to White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders accused the Chinese government of "Orwellian nonsense" in trying to impose its views on American citizens and private companies when it declared that United Airlines, American Airlines and other foreign carriers should refer to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau as part of China in public-facing materials, such as their websites.

Misinformation, Solomon said, "frames what we've all been through in the last 12 months." In that vein, the site with 90 million monthly users has busied itself adding new word entries for "filter bubble," ″fake news," ″post-fact," ″post-truth" and "homophily," among others. Other word entries on the site have been freshened to reflect timely new meanings, including "echo chamber."

The company's runners-up for the top honor include "representation," driven by the popularity of the movies "Black Panther" and "Crazy Rich Asians," along with wins during the U.S. midterm elections for Muslim women, Native Americans and LGBTQ candidates.

But the rise of misinformation, Solomon said, stretches well beyond U.S. borders and Facebook's role in disseminating fake news and propaganda in the Cambridge Analytica scandal. The use of Facebook and other social media to incite violence and conflict was documented around the globe in 2018, she said.

"Hate speech and rumors posted to Facebook facilitated violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, riots started in Sri Lanka after false news set the country's Buddhist majority against Muslims, and false rumors about child kidnappers on WhatsApp led to mob violence in India," Solomon said.

Is disinformation or misinformation at play in terms of the year's most prominent conspiracy theories? Solomon noted proliferation on social media over students in the Parkland school shooting being crisis actors instead of victims of violence, and over a group of migrants from Honduras who are making their way north being funded by "rich liberals."

Elsewhere in the culture, countless podcasts and videos have spread the absurd notion of a global cover-up that the Earth is flat rather than round. The idea of "misinfodemics" has surfaced in the last several years to identify the anti-vaccination movement and other beliefs that lead to real-world health crises, Solomon said.

There are distinctions between misinformation and disinformation to be emphasized.

"Disinformation would have also been a really, really interesting word of the year this year, but our choice of misinformation was very intentional," she said. "Disinformation is a word that kind of looks externally to examine the behavior of others. It's sort of like pointing at behavior and saying, 'THIS is disinformation.' With misinformation, there is still some of that pointing, but also it can look more internally to help us evaluate our own behavior, which is really, really important in the fight against misinformation. It's a word of self-reflection, and in that it can be a call to action. You can still be a good person with no nefarious agenda and still spread misinformation."

WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS AP

The gingerbread house, showcasing the full expanse of the National Mall: the Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Washington Monument, and, the White House is seen in the State Dining Room during the press preview at the White House in Washington, Monday, Nov. 26, 2018. Christmas has arrived at the White House. First lady Melania Trump unveiled the 2018 White House holiday decor on Monday. She designed the decor, which features a theme of "American Treasures."

Mom stays close to married son through a tracking app

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for five years. We live in the same town as my in-laws, and for the most part, we get along great. However, my mother-in-law does something that makes me uneasy. She uses an app to track my husband. She pressured him into installing it right before our wedding and has tracked him ever since.

She'll often text or call him to ask why he's going to the store, or what he was doing when he was late to work, etc. Once he tried to remove the app, but she quickly noticed and confronted him. Abby, I have never seen her so angry! My husband caved and reinstalled it. Since then, he says it doesn't really bother him that she tracks him.

Part of me feels that if he wants to let his mother track him, that's his business. But another part of me feels this is an invasion of my privacy as well, since we are together much of the time. It also worries me that he's so quick to cave to his mother's demands, and that he isn't bothered by such an obvious invasion of privacy.

Am I wrong to be upset about this? What can I do to get my mother-in-law to give us some privacy?

UNEASY IN KANSAS

DEAR UNEASY: You're not wrong. Your husband should revoke the location permission on the app on his phone or delete it altogether.

What his mother is doing is sick. She is using the tracker as a substitute for the umbilical cord that should have been severed when her son was born. It's a huge invasion of your and your husband's privacy.

He is so used to caving in to his mother that he doesn't have the strength to assert himself. I do not think you should take your mother-in-law on by yourself. Enlist the help of a licensed marriage and family therapist for suggestions about how to create some separation, because that process may be somewhat complicated.

DEAR ABBY: My relationship with my boyfriend has been wonderful, except for one issue. He wants us to have a three-way with another woman. Even after I let him know I'm not bisexual, he has suggested it multiple times. Some of my previous partners have suggested this as well, and it has left me feeling as though I will never be enough. I consider it cheating, although they might disagree because I would be involved.

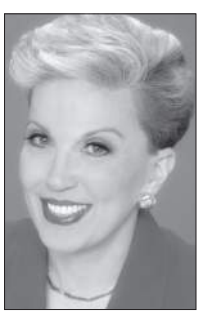
I find this extremely hurtful. I love my boyfriend and don't want to end the relationship, but I'm afraid I must because I don't want to be with someone I can never satisfy (he has mentioned he plans to propose).

What do you think? I wish he had never asked me to do this because it feels horrible. If any male readers have insight, I'd love to hear from them as well.

NOT ENOUGH

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR NOT ENOUGH: What your boyfriend has suggested is a common male fantasy. I can only wonder if he would react the same way you have if you suggested a threesome with him and another man.

Because this isn't your cup of tea, you are right to have refused. What concerns me is what you think is going to happen if the two of you should marry, because this issue will not go away once the "I do's" are over. As you requested, I will let male readers weigh in on this one, but personally, I think the time has come to resume your search for Mr. Right.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

CALVIN, WHERE ARE YOU? GET OUT HERE!
COME ON, CALVIN, I'M GETTING TIRED OF THIS!
I MEAN IT, CALVIN! COME OUT AND TAKE YOUR BATH! NOW!
SOONER OR LATER SHE'S GOING TO HAVE TO QUESTION WHETHER THIS IS REALLY WORTH THE TROUBLE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

FEEL HOW LIGHT MY NEW LAPTOP IS. HOLD IT.
OKAY.
NO. WAIT. IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE AND NEW AND PRECIOUS.
BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD FEEL HOW LIGHT IT IS.
OKAY.
NOPE. NOPE. BUT, SERIOUSLY, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
THIS IS MORE ANNOYING THAN WHEN YOU GOT THAT CAPTAIN CAVEMAN MUG.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Goblet feature
5 Bikini top
8 Not many
12 Analogy words
13 Very long time
14 Volcanic flow
15 Agricultural worker
17 Smile
18 Quake
19 Repress
21 Hot tub reaction
22 Pitcher Hershiser
23 Canine cry
26 Scamper
28 Island off Venezuela
31 Warmth
33 Martini ingredient
35 Uppity one
36 Bitter
38 Architect I. M. —
40 Auto fuel
41 Chicago paper, for short
43 Sounds of hesitation
45 Odorless gas
47 Capturing
51 Saharan
52 Ludicrous
54 Ancient letter
55 Eggs
56 Disaster aid org.
57 Dowels
58 Solidify
59 Wilma's hubby

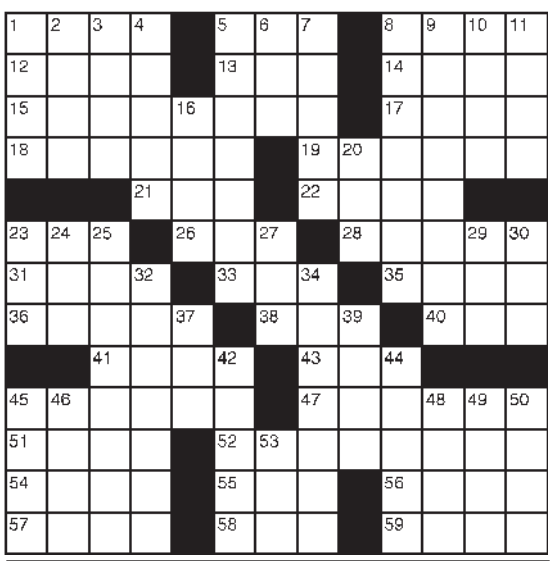
DOWN

1 Winnow
2 Russian ruler
3 French 101 verb
4 Poppa's mate
5 Hearty embrace
6 Director Howard
7 "Thus ..."
8 North African capital
9 Widespread
10 Wicked
11 Fade away
16 Frost
20 La-la lead-in
23 "Caught ya!"
24 Fun and games
25 Old British coin
27 Wee bite
29 Feathery wrap
30 Six-pack muscles
32 Rants
34 Not taking sides
37 Cacophony
39 Apple computer
42 Confuse
44 Small boat
45 Lawman Wyatt
46 Loyal
48 Cake finisher
49 Christen
50 Pleased
53 St. crosser

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	I	D	S	■	R	A	H	■	M	A	C	C
L	O	O	K	■	A	T	E	■	O	R	A	N
M	U	S	I	C	B	O	X	■	V	A	S	T
A	S	E	■	H	I	P	■	V	I	B	E	S
■	■	■	M	A	D	■	F	E	E	■	■	■
S	N	E	E	H	■	H	O	I	B	A	I	H
I	T	A	L	■	T	O	E	■	U	R	S	A
R	H	U	B	A	R	B	■	A	F	T	E	R
■	■	■	B	A	Y	■	R	A	F	■	■	■
D	E	M	C	S	■	F	O	R	■	A	K	A
O	R	E	C	■	M	I	X	E	D	B	A	G
R	I	N	K	■	A	S	I	■	A	B	L	E
A	N	D	S	■	S	H	E	■	D	Y	E	S

Yesterday's answer 11-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Kwanten, 42; Jon Stewart, 56; Ed Harris, 68; Paul Shaffer, 69.

Happy Birthday: Put your time where it will count the most. The changes you make will make a difference to your relationship with a friend or lover. Talking over the details you would like to see happen will bring you one step closer to turning your dream into a reality. Do your own fact-checking to avoid being misled by someone manipulative. Your numbers are 2, 16, 24, 26, 31, 38, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take good care of your personal finances. Keep spending to a minimum. Update any documents to avoid a lapse of coverage or payments that could put you in jeopardy. A contract or commitment should be thought through carefully. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Go over last-minute changes, or adjust something that could cost you at tax time. Steady progress can be made if you are diligent about what needs to be completed on time. Stick to simple, realistic plans that are within budget. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Know what and who you are up against. It's important to have the wherewithal to deal with sensitive matters accordingly. A personal change to the way you look or how you do your job will give you a competitive edge. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take a unique approach to whatever you do and you will drum up interest and the help you need to get things done. Show confidence and determination moving forward. Greater opportunities will come your way. Walk away from impulsive people. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Plan to have some fun. Attend networking or social events that will give you the chance to share your thoughts. You'll click with someone you meet, but before you make a move, get a little background information. Looks can be deceiving. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Problems at home will surface if you've been too busy or have neglected personal responsibilities. Timing is everything, and balance between home and work will make a difference to the outcome of a matter that has been festering. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Embrace change and tighten up your spending habits. How you handle money matters will make a difference to an important relationship you have with someone. Joint ventures must be handled carefully to avoid criticism. Using charm trumps using force. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A trip is favored if it will help you seal a deal. Don't let emotions come between you and the success you crave. Someone from your past will pry into your personal and business affairs. Don't share personal information or passwords. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Get moving. Physical activity and health-related changes will encourage you to avoid any sort of excess and indulgence. A discussion with someone you love will lead to future plans. Romance is highlighted, and a commitment can be made. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be leery of anyone making impulsive decisions or promises that are unrealistic. Stick to what and who you know best, and check every detail personally to avoid an unwanted surprise. Keep an open mind and a close watch over your possessions. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Updating your image will give you a boost. Make your position clear when dealing with contracts, investments and legal matters. A change to the way you eat, drink and exercise will pay off. Romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be careful of what you say and the promises you make. A sensitive situation will leave you questioning someone's point of view. Stick to what feels most comfortable. Travel plans or dealing with authority figures should be put on hold. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable, outspoken and spirited. You are helpful and youthful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	1	4	6	9	8	7	
	7						4	
		9	2	7	3	6		
	6						2	
7					4			3
1				2		4		7
5					1			6
	4						5	
		3	7	9	5	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	3	5	4	6	9	8	2	7
6	2	4	7	3	8	1	9	5
8	9	7	5	2	1	6	4	3
7	8	1	2	9	6	3	5	4
9	5	2	8	4	3	7	6	1
3	4	6	1	5	7	9	8	2
4	7	3	6	8	2	5	1	9
5	6	9	3	1	4	2	7	8
2	1	8	9	7	5	4	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HIBACHI Solution: 8 letters

C	S	N	O	M	L	A	S	T	O	V	E	T	F	N
H	H	O	I	E	C	N	E	I	D	U	A	E	E	L
A	I	O	N	A	I	U	F	O	T	B	U	P	P	L
R	C	D	P	I	L	P	E	M	L	C	O	P	R	A
C	H	L	O	S	O	E	H	E	E	S	I	A	E	N
O	I	E	R	C	T	N	C	B	C	A	O	N	T	O
A	R	S	K	U	L	I	R	R	U	O	T	Y	S	I
L	I	P	O	L	L	A	C	S	O	R	O	A	B	T
W	N	E	I	I	B	A	H	K	S	P	N	K	O	I
O	E	R	J	N	C	M	I	I	S	L	M	I	Ⓛ	D
B	G	I	F	A	I	O	C	L	T	A	I	N	Ⓐ	A
E	G	F	R	R	P	R	K	L	E	T	U	O	Ⓔ	R
E	S	R	O	Y	I	A	E	E	A	E	G	C	Ⓜ	T
F	O	N	R	I	C	E	N	T	K	L	A	T	E	M
T	A	E	H	S	I	F	D	D	O	O	F	A	E	S

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Aroma, Audience, Barbecue, Beef, Bowl, Burn, Carrot, Charcoal, Chef, Chicken, Chopsticks, Cook, Culinary, Eggs, Fire, Fish, Fried, Grill, Heat, Iron, Japan, Lobster, Meal, Meat, Metal, Mild, Noodles, Oils, Onion, Open, Plate, Porcelain, Pork, Rice, Salmon, Sauce, Scallop, Seafood, Shichirin, Skillet, Soy, Steak, Stove, Table, Teppanyaki, Tofu, Traditional

Yesterday's Answer: Painter

Purchase **WONDERWORD** books in time for the holidays!
Visit WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$15**	**$30**
• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$45**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

marathon

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

• **Safety Officer**

Job requirements: Prefer Training certifications from OSHA and MSHA or thorough knowledge of OSHA and MSHA health and safety regulations and procedures. OSHA 500 and 510 certificates, MSHA 24 hour training certificates are desirable.

Job Duties:
Insure training and safety compliance of quarry operations and concrete plant operations. Maintain safety compliance of equipment including mixers, dump trucks, mining, paving, other mobile and processing equipment.

Salary range based on qualifications

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(Mason, Carpenter, Plumber, Electrician, Painter, etc)

Salary Range: $7.25 to $10.00/hr
Requirements: 5-10 years experience in construction.

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ADDENDUM NO. 1
November 24, 2018
ITB19-GOV-006

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Glass Pulverizer for the Tinian Transfer Station

The following are changes made to the ITB19-GOV-006:

1. The ITB designation should be replaced with ITB19-GOV-006.

2. The pre-bid conference for this project will be on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at the CIP Office. Pre-bid conference is not mandatory.

3. Questions shall be in writing and must be submitted by December 11, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

4. Sealed bids must be marked ITB19-GOV-006, Supply, Delivery and Installation of Glass Pulverizer at the Tinian Transfer Station. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, December 20, 2018. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of theirs bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, December 20, 2018 and must be transmitted via facsimili to (670)664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 20, 2018 and the bid documents must be received no later than December 27, 2018. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies maybe causefor rejection of a bid.

All others remain the same.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-2200 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Saturday, December 01, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes October 09, 2018

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Review (2) Vocational Ed. Applicants
- B. TMSB Policies
- C. Deadline for Spring 2019

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

Braves make free agent splash with Donaldson, McCann

ATLANTA (AP)—Brian McCann slipped on the No. 16 jersey he wore for so many years.

"It feels right," he said, over and over again.

Looking to improve on their first division title in five years, the Atlanta Braves agreed Monday to one-year contracts with McCann and former AL MVP Josh Donaldson—a pair of low-risk moves that give the team a chance to make another postseason run while not hindering the long-term development of all those talented young players.

Donaldson agreed to a $23 million deal that matches what the third baseman made during a forgettable 2018 season, a person familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was subject to a successful physical.

McCann's $2 million contract was announced by the Braves, reuniting the team with a catcher who was a seven-time All-Star from 2005-13. A native of suburban Atlanta, he was eager for a chance to return home with his wife and two children.

"This is as special a day for me as any I've had in my career," McCann said during a hastily called news conference at SunTrust Park. "To put this uniform back on, with the love I have for this organization, the love I have for everybody from top to bottom, people I've known since I was 18 years old, that's why I'm here."

While McCann's signing is sure to be popular with the fan base, the acquisition of Donaldson figures to be far more significant to the team's fortunes in 2019.

The Braves are counting on a return to form from the three-time All-Star, who turns 32 next month. It was only three years ago that he captured the MVP award in his first season with Toronto , hitting 41 homers and leading the AL with 123 RBIs. While he followed up with two more 30-plus-homer seasons, a hip injury in 2016 and a strained right calf in 2017 cut into his production.

This past season, Donaldson was limited to 52 games by shoulder inflammation and calf issues, hitting .246 with eight homers and 23 RBIs. He was dealt to Cleveland by the Blue Jays on Aug. 31 .

The short-term deal with the Braves gives Donaldson a chance to show he's healthy and back to form, potentially setting up a huge payday in the next free-agent market.

For Atlanta, it provides another much-needed slugger in the middle of the order to go with Freddie Freeman, especially since it's not known if the team will make a serious run at bringing back free-agent outfielder Nick Markakis.

General manager Alex Anthopoulos attended the news conference for McCann but did not comment on the signing of Donaldson.

It was left to McCann to inadvertently mention the Braves' other acquisition.

"I don't know if I was supposed to say that," McCann said, sounding a bit embarrassed. "I just read it on Twitter."

"I don't even know who that is," Anthopoulos quipped.

Actually, Donaldson and the GM have a relationship that goes back to their days in Toronto. Anthopoulos served in the same post for the Blue Jays until 2015, working out the blockbuster trade that acquired Donaldson from the Oakland Athletics.

Atlanta's signing of Donaldson raises questions about the future of 24-year-old Johan Camargo, who had a breakout season at third base. He hit .272 with 19 homers and 76 RBIs before going 0 for 15 in a Division Series loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Camargo, who has also played shortstop, second base and even one game in left field during his brief big league career, could upgrade Atlanta bench as a super sub — a big priority after the Braves went with a playoff roster that included journeymen Ryan Flaherty and Lane Adams. Or, if there's an opening in the outfield, Camargo get a shot in play alongside NL Rookie of the Year Ronald Acuna Jr. and Gold Glover Ender Inciarte.

McCann, who turns 35 in February, left the Braves to sign an $85 million, five-year contract with the New York Yankees. He was traded to Houston after the emergence of Gary Sanchez , helping the Astros win their first World Series title in 2017.

But McCann dipped badly this year, hitting a career-low .212 with seven homers and 23 RBIs in 63 games. He missed about two months because of arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in July.

While the Braves signed McCann mainly for his leadership abilities and the chance to work with a young starting staff, Anthopoulos said he's hopeful that the catcher will bounce back offensively "now that he's got his knee fixed. The reports on him are very strong. We think is upside is great, beyond everything else he brings."

McCann will share playing time with Tyler Flowers in what the Braves hope will be another effective duo behind the plate, similar to what they had the last two seasons with Flowers and Kurt Suzuki.

Suzuki recently signed a two-year deal with NL East rival Washington.

McCann thanked Charlie Culberson for agreeing to give up No. 16, which the utility player wore in 2018 for the Braves.

"I have to get him something nice," McCann said. "That number means a lot to me. That's the number I wore my first nine years. It's special."

AP
This May 27, 2018, file photo shows Toronto Blue Jays' Josh Donaldson in action during a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies in Philadelphia.

Yankees have room for Harper

Bryce Harper, a National League MVP at 23, is a free agent at 26, peddling his services in an industry that's grown to nearly $11 billion in annual revenues. His combination of skills, age and marketing cachet make him an excellent fit for any major league franchise.

Particularly the New York Yankees.

Harper, who has 184 career home runs and a lifetime .900 OPS, rejected a 10-year, $300 million contract offer from the Washington Nationals in September, and is a good bet to set a new standard for the most lucrative contract in North American sports history.

It may take weeks for that process to play out. In the meantime, USA TODAY Sports will examine why every team could use Harper's services – some more than others, certainly some better-equipped to procure them.

When a generational talent with megawatt star power comes on the market in his prime, the Yankees' lineup suddenly resembles a family dinner table at the holidays.

There's always room for one more.

The Yankees' acquisition of Giancarlo Stanton nearly one year ago ostensibly closed the door on their long-anticipated pursuit of Harper. A power-hitting outfielder with a $325 million contract? Stanton filled that role on the payroll and at the plate, where he belted 38 home runs and posted an .852 OPS, a fine season as he adjusted to a new league and market.

Yet, the Yankee season also illustrated how easily they could accommodate Harper.

Stanton served as the designated hitter for 86 games, and at 29, that's likely his home for the majority of his remaining career. An injury to Aaron Judge even forced Stanton into right field for 72 games, and while the Yankee outfield has plenty of bodies, there's not a lot of staying power.

Should they add Harper, the player likeliest to lose a starting job would be left fielder Brett Gardner, who re-signed for one year and $7.5 million.

But at 35, coming off a season in which he batted .236 with a .322 OBP, Gardner probably profiles best as a fourth outfielder, anyway.

Center fielder Aaron Hicks is eligible for free agency after this season.

And Stanton, lest we forget, may opt out of his contract after the 2020 season – though whether he can, at 31, top the seven years and $218 million remaining on his deal is debatable.

In the near term, the Yankees could bracket Hicks with Harper and Judge, with Stanton at DH.

Longer term, they could conceivably play Clint Frazier in center field, or shift Harper to first base, where there's still no viable full-time solution.

These are trifling details, though, when you consider the thunder a Judge-Harper-Stanton grouping could produce at the plate.

Consider their career on-base and OPS: .398/.963, .388/.900, .358/.905.

And consider that at 26, Harper and Judge will be entering their prime power-hitting years.

And finally, consider that Harper will be moving to Yankee Stadium's short right field porch, a venue with the most generous home run rate for lefty hitters over the past five years.

The major league record 267 home runs the Yankees hit in 2018 might just be a starting point.

Meanwhile, right-hander Parker Bridwell was claimed off waivers from the Los Angeles Angels by the Yankees, who opened a roster spot by designating infielder Ronald Torreyes for assignment.

Bridwell, 27, was 10-3 with a 3.64 ERA in 20 starts and one relief appearance for the Angels in 2017, then missed much of this year because of right elbow inflammation. He was 1-0 with a 17.55 ERA in one start and four relief appearances over 6 2/3 innings for the Angels and 1-1 with an 8.68 ERA at Triple-A Salt Lake.

Bridwell is 11-3 with a 4.60 ERA for Baltimore and the Angels in 28 games over three seasons. He was designated for assignment last week by the Angels.

Durant's 49 points carry Warriors over Magic

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Ever the perfectionist and competitor, Kevin Durant knows he should have scored well more than 50 points if a few more shots had fallen.

"I'm pretty sure all my teammates felt that way," the typically efficient Golden State star said.

Durant scored a season-high 49 points, giving Golden State the lead on a three-point play with 1:19 left before hitting a 3-pointer with 22 seconds remaining to send the Warriors past the Orlando Magic, 116-110 on Monday night.

"I still missed 17 shots. I tricked off a 50-piece. I felt like I had some shots that I wish I could have made last game and this game," Durant said.

"I could be in a better groove I feel like. Just playing a lot of minutes and having the ball in your hands, especially with the way the game is, the flow of the game. Obviously if you can score a little bit, you're going to score some points in this league."

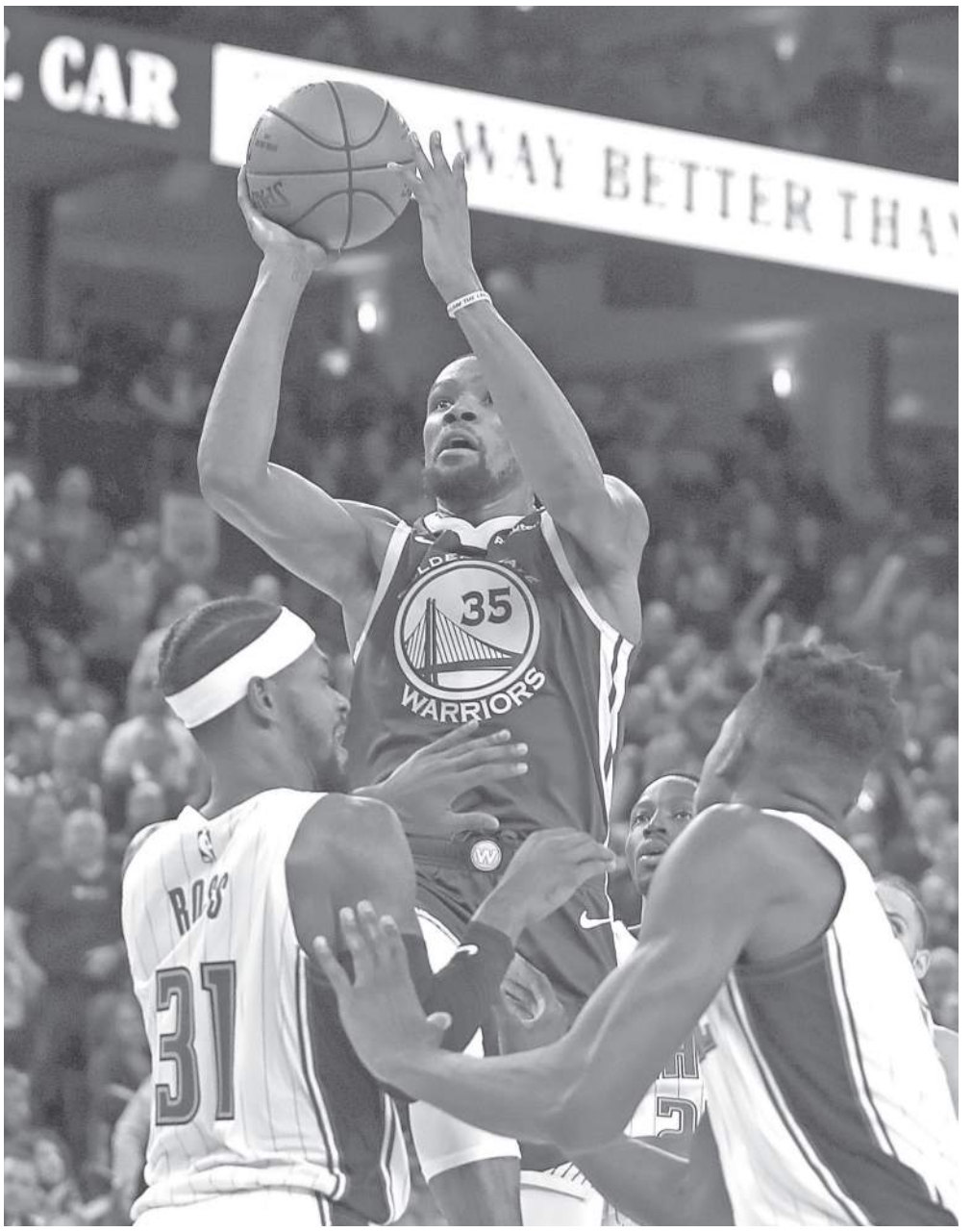
Durant topped his 44-point performance two nights earlier with another brilliant outing on both ends, even if he didn't like shooting 16 for 33. Klay Thompson was his scoring sidekick once more as the two-time defending NBA champions played without injured All-Stars Stephen Curry and Draymond Green.

Thompson hit his sixth 3 of the night to tie it with 1:45 left and finished with 29 points.

The past three games, Durant has scored 125 points and Thompson 91.

''It was hard to stop them. That's why they're such great players," Orlando's Nikola Vucevic said. ''They made shot after shot at the end."

Durant became the seventh player in Warriors history to post consecutive 40-point games —along with Rick Barry, Wilt Chamberlain, Curry, Antawn Jamison, Purvis Short and Thompson, according to Elias.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant, center, shoots over Orlando Magic's Terrence Ross (31) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Nov. 26, 2018, in Oakland, Calif. Golden State won, 116-110.

Hornets 110, Bucks 107

In Charlotte, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist's stat line was nothing to get excited about: seven points, seven rebounds, two blocks and one assist.

But the forward's return to the floor after missing six games with an ankle injury provided a huge spark for the Charlotte Hornets, who built a 25-point, third-quarter lead and held on to beat the Milwaukee Bucks and snap a two-game losing streak.

Kidd-Gilchrist brought energy on both ends of the floor, including a rejection of Khris Middleton off the glass on a fast-break layup attempt.

Charlotte forced 16 turnovers, limited Milwaukee to a season-low 40 points in the paint and played perhaps its best defensive game of the season.

"He's special on that end of the floor," Kemba Walker said of Kidd-Gilchrist's defense. "He takes pride in it. ... We missed him. He came in and gave an unbelievable effort. He's still not 100 percent, but the effort that he gave was just unbelievable."

Kidd-Gilchrist said it was "not fun" to sit out six games, saying he had a lot of energy bottled up inside of him.

"The energy is why I'm here," Kidd-Gilchrist said.

Coach James Borrego praised his team's defense one night after an ugly loss at Atlanta, which has the worst record in the Eastern Conference.

He said Kidd-Gilchrist provided the spark the Hornets needed.

"We have felt his absence the last four or five games," Borrego said. "I don't think it's a coincidence that we have that type of effort tonight with him back in the lineup."

Timberwolves 102, Cavaliers 95

In Cleveland, there's no question the Minnesota Timberwolves have been better since trading disgruntled star Jimmy Butler.

Monday night's victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers improved Minnesota's record to 6-2 since the trade two weeks ago that sent Butler to Philadelphia.

The victory moved Minnesota within a game of .500. The Timberwolves haven't been at the break-even mark since the fourth game of the season.

"We have a long way to go, but we keep improving," coach Tom Thibodeau said. "We're still not playing as well as we can. We can't be satisfied."

Robert Covington, one of three players acquired in the Butler trade, scored 24 points and Karl-Anthony Towns added 21, giving Minnesota its second win in 10 road games this season.

Covington bounced back from a horrendous game Saturday against Chicago in which he scored four points, was 1 of 18 from the field and missed all 10 of his 3-point attempts. He was 8 of 12 from the field and hit 4 of 7 3-pointers Monday.

Spurs 108, Bulls 107

In Chicago, LaMarcus Aldridge showed off his smooth low-post game in the fourth quarter.

He even threw down an impressive dunk for good measure.

Aldridge scored 11 of his 20 points in the final period, and the San Antonio Spurs held off the Chicago Bulls.

"I just got touches," Aldridge said. "I touched it a little bit more and kind of found my rhythm and once I felt good I was trying to keep going."

DeMar DeRozan had 21 points for San Antonio, and Patty Mills finished with 17. Bryn Forbes made three of the Spurs' 10 3-pointers on his way to 13 points.

San Antonio had dropped three of four, including a 135-129 loss at Milwaukee on Saturday. But the Spurs bounced back behind the clutch play of Aldridge and DeRozan.

"I like the fact that DeMar and L.A. got aggressive down the stretch and took over," coach Gregg Popovich said.

Wizards 135, Rockets 131 OT

In Washington, even the Wizards seemed surprised by the way they won.

Bradley Beal said he couldn't have imagined allowing the opposing starting guards to combine for 90 points and still get a victory.

"No sir. Absolutely not. No sir," Beal said. "Not at all. It's amazing we pulled it off still."

John Wall scored a season-high 36 points, including six in overtime, and Washington overcame James Harden's season-best 54 points to outlast the Houston Rockets.

Harden, the NBA's leading scorer, also had 13 assists, while Eric Gordon added a season-high 36 points.

Wall had two baskets in the extra period and finished with 11 assists. Beal equaled his season high with 32 points for the Wizards.

Otto Porter hit a runner with 4:37 to play for the first basket in overtime and the Wizards remained ahead from there. Wall followed with a jumper to make it 129-125 and later made another jumper that pushed the lead to five. Beal's dunk extended it to 133-126 with 1:50 to play.

Harden had 44 points through three quarters but missed five of his seven shots in the fourth. In overtime, Harden whose career high is 60, was 1 of 2 from the field and had two free throws. He had 11 turnovers, three in overtime, and 13 assists.

Celtics 124, Pelicans 107

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had just trimmed New Orleans' deficit to a seemingly surmountable seven points when Boston's Kyrie Irving and Jayson Tatum combined to quickly squash any notion of a comeback.

Irving closed out a 26-point, 10-assist performance with a 3-pointer and a tough baseline fade over Davis, and the Celtics pulled away late for a victory over the Pelicans.

Tatum, who scored 20, threw down a right-handed dunk while being fouled by Davis with 2:26 left, at which point Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry began subbing out starters and fans started filing out, resigned to just New Orleans' second loss in 10 home games this season.

"It's closing time at that point," Irving said. "We knew that we had the game in control just based upon our defensive schemes that we had out there.

Pacers 121, Jazz 88

In Salt Lake City, Myles Turner missed Indiana's last game with a sore ankle. He returned with a rested body and renewed determination against Utah.

"Sitting the San Antonio game was hard but it was the best thing for me," Turner said. "I was aggressive tonight on offense and defense."

Turner scored all of his 16 points in the first three quarters and helped limit Rudy Gobert's effectiveness as the Pacers rolled to victory.

"I lured him from the paint. He's a shot-blocker and it opens the lane for our attacking guards and we got more for everybody else," said Turner, who didn't play in the fourth quarter

Woods out with Thomas for Hero World Challenge

NASSAU, Bahamas—A year ago, Tiger Woods returned to golf alongside Justin Thomas in the Hero World Challenge at Albany Golf Club.

A year later, Woods will start the second act of his remarkable comeback to golf once again alongside Thomas.

The two are paired in Thursday's first round, going off at 12:05 p.m. ET. Woods and Thomas have become good friends, playing together often before Woods returned to the game last year in the Hero, a tournament that benefits his foundation.

Woods tied for ninth last year as Rickie Fowler took home top honors. Fowler begins defense of his title alongside Dustin Johnson.

Six of the top 10 players in the world are in the 18-man field, and 11 of the top 15. The top-ranked player in the field is No. 2 Justin Rose.

Last year, Woods was ranked 1,199th when he took to the first tee. He's moved up to No. 13 in the world on the strength of his victory in The Tour Championship—his first win since 2013—runner-up finishes in the PGA Championship and Valspar Championship, a fifth-place finish in the Arnold Palmer Invitational and a sixth-place finish in the British Open.

The year far exceeded even Woods' expectations. Now, as he closes out the year and sets his sights on 2019, his expectations have risen and his peers – and fans – await Woods' next act.

Thursday's first round: Tony Finau and Gary Woodland; Keegan Bradley and Hideki Matsuyama; Patrick Cantlay and Xander Schauffele; Justin Rose and Henrik Stenson; Jon Rahm and Alex Noren; Justin Thomas and Tiger Woods; Rickie Fowler and Dustin Johnson; Patrick Reed and Bubba Watson; and Jason Day and Bryson DeChambeau.

Texans get franchise-record 8th straight win

HOUSTON (AP) — Deshaun Watson threw for 210 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a third as the Houston Texans set a franchise record with their eighth straight win, 34-17 over the Tennessee Titans on Monday night.

Demaryius Thomas scored his first two touchdowns as a Texan and Lamar Miller ran for 162 yards, including a 97-yard TD.

In the first game since founder and owner Robert "Bob" McNair died on Friday, the Texans (8-3) honored him by wearing decals on the back of their helmets in the shape of a football with white block letters bearing his initials of "RCM."

With that reminder on their helmets, they became the first team in NFL history to win eight games in a row after starting 0-3. They lead Indianapolis by two games in the AFC South.

The Texans trailed by 10 early before reeling off 27 straight points. Tennessee (5-6) finally scored again on a 48-yard reception by Corey Davis late in the third quarter, but the second TD by Thomas—this one for 10 yards—made it 34-17 with just more than eight minutes left.

Marcus Mariota, who missed the second half of last week's game after suffering a stinger, was 22 of 23 for 303 yards and two touchdowns. He completed his first 19 passes before an incompletion with just more than a minute remaining.

Miller's 97-yard breakaway in the second quarter made it 21-10. It was the longest run in franchise history and the longest run in the NFL since his dash of the same length for a touchdown on Dec. 28, 2014, while with the Dolphins. He's now the only player in league history with two career rushing touchdowns of 95 yards or longer.

The Titans went ahead 3-0 on their first possession, and Jonnu Smith had a career-long 61-yard catch-and-run touchdown that extended their lead less than halfway through the first quarter.

Houston got going after that, cutting the lead to 10-7 when Thomas grabbed his first touchdown since being traded from Denver on Oct. 30, a 12-yard grab with about six minutes left in the quarter.

Watson put the Texans on top when he scrambled 15 yards for a score on the first play of the second quarter.

The Titans went for it on fourth-and-inches from the 3 later in the second, but tight end Luke Stocker was stopped for no gain.

Miller's long TD, which helped Houston set a franchise record with 281 yards rushing, came on the next play. He took the handoff in the end zone and darted through a crowd of Titans before shedding one tackle and simply outrunning the rest of the defense.

The Texans kicked a field goal as time expired in the second quarter to take a 24-10 lead into halftime.

AP

Houston Texans running back Alfred Blue (28) is stopped by Tennessee Titans defensive tackle Bennie Logan (96) and linebacker Harold Landry (58) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 26, 2018, in Houston.

Bengals QB Dalton out of season

Andy Dalton's season is over.

The Cincinnati Bengals quarterback was placed on injured reserve Monday after being sidelined by a thumb injury during Sunday's loss to the Cleveland Browns.

Dalton suffered the injury in the third quarter while trying to recover the football after a bad snap.

Dalton suffered the injury in the third quarter while trying to recover a bad snap.

Former backup Jeff Driskel will prepare for his first career start Sunday against the Denver Broncos at Paul Brown Stadium.

"You have to focus every week, knowing the game plan like you're going to play because you never know when your number is going to be called," Driskel said Monday before Dalton's status became official. "My routine is going to stay the same and come Sunday I'll be ready to go regardless of who is in there."

Driskel completed 17 of 29 passes for 155 yards and scored a passing touchdown, the first of Driskel's three-year career, and a rushing touchdown Sunday in relief.

"I was impressed with Jeff and really we've been impressed with him every time he's gone in a game," said Bengals offensive coordinator Bill Lazor. "He's poised."

Dalton is the 12th Bengals player added to IR this season. His season ends after he completed 226 of 335 pass attempts (61.9 percent) for 2,566 yards, 21 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

This is the second time a right thumb injury cut his season short. He fractured his right thumb in Week 13 of the 2015 season against the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Bengals were 10-2 before losing Dalton, finished the regular season 2-2 and lost to the Steelers in the playoffs.

The Bengals acquired quarterback Tom Savage off waivers from the San Francisco 49ers on Monday. Savage, a fourth-round pick in the 2014 draft, has appeared in 13 career games (all for the Houston Texans), including nine starts, and completed 181 of 315 passes for 2000 yards, five touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Big 3 of Djokovic, Nadal, and Federer closes 2018 ranked 1-2-3

NEW YORK (AP) — The Big 3 is the year-end Top 3, something that last happened in 2014.

With Novak Djokovic at No. 1, Rafael Nadal at No. 2 and Roger Federer at No. 3 on Monday, that trio of tennis greats leads the season's final ATP rankings for the seventh time.

This is the first time, though, that each of those three men spent some time at No. 1 during the same year. The seven changes there were the most since 1999, when there were eight.

Djokovic won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 2018, while Federer took the Australian Open, and Nadal earned the title at the French Open.

They accounted for Nos. 1-3 in the final rankings in 2007-11 and 2014, too.

For Djokovic, it marks the fifth time he has closed a year in the top spot, following 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015. Only Pete Sampras, with six year-end No. 1 finishes, did it more often.

AP

Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Alexander Zverev of Germany in their ATP World Tour Finals singles final tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Sunday Nov. 18, 2018.

The 31-year-old from Serbia is also the oldest man to be No. 1 at season's end and the first to finish atop the rankings after being outside the top 20 during the year—or outside the top 10 at the end of the previous year (he was No. 12 in 2017).

Simona Halep ended the season at No. 1 in the WTA rankings for the second consecutive year; she clinched that spot more than a month ago. Angelique Kerber was No. 2 among women, followed by Caroline Wozniacki, Elina Svitolina and Naomi Osaka.

Djokovic overtook Nadal three weeks ago; the Spaniard did not compete anywhere after stopping because of a painful right knee during his U.S. Open semifinal in September against Juan Martin del Potro. Nadal had arthroscopic surgery on his right ankle this month.

Nadal concluded a season at No. 1 or No. 2 for the 10th time, trailing only Federer's 11.

Federer, meanwhile, is in the year-end top three for a record 14th time. The 37-year-old from Switzerland has won 20 Grand Slam singles championships, the most by a man, followed by Nadal with 17, then Djokovic and the retired Sampras with 14 apiece.

The rest of the ATP top 10 for 2018: No. 4 Alexander Zverev, No. 5 del Potro, No. 6 Kevin Anderson, No. 7 Marin Cilic, No. 8 Dominic Thiem, No. 9 Kei Nishikori and No. 10 John Isner.

Braves make free agent splash with Donaldson, McCann

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KAN PACIFIC POOL CLOSED

More work at Oleai Sports Complex

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Northern Marianas Sports Association staff members work on the torn roof of the bleachers at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield last Monday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The fence at the Oleai Sports Complex's parking lot fell down after Saipan was hit by Super Typhoon Yutu last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Clearing and cleanup at the Oleai Sports Complex will take a while even as Northern Marianas Sports Association plans to ask for extra hands to get the job done.

"This will take a while," said NMSA executive director Tony Rogolofoi, who along with his four staff members resumed work last Monday at the facility that was badly hit by Super Typhoon Yutu.

"We're taking it one day at a time and a long work is ahead of us since we have only a few staff," added Rogolifoi, who returned to the island several days after Yutu slammed Saipan and Tinian and let his staff took care of their own homes first before getting back to the complex.

At the start of this week, Rogolifoi and company focused on the "eye sores" at the facility, as they took down the front fence, the crumpled batting cage, broken nets, and torn roofs of the left bleacher at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

"We're concentrating on the damaged areas at the front, removing the 'eye sores,' like the crooked pipes and broken fence," the NMSA executive director said.

They will also work at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield and the fence at the track oval in the coming weeks and will request for help from the Saipan Mayor's Office and possibly, the National Guard.

Rogolifoi added that they will submit an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency this week to seek for financial assistance in the rehabilitation and repair of the sports complex.

"We already made an initial assessment on the damage sustained by the Oleai Sports Complex and we will include that in our application to FEMA," Rogolifoi said.

Before the sports complex suffered massive damage from Yutu, it was also hammered by Typhoon Soudelor, three years ago and FEMA approved a substantial amount to fix the facility. NMSA was just waiting for some paperwork from concerned government agencies for the repair project to start when Yutu came and caused more damage to the sports complex and its facilities.

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium lost more roofs, while windows were also smashed. The lighting system at the "Tan Ko" field was also broken, while portions of the ground of both the "Tan Ge" and "Tan Ko" field washed off and need fixing (flattening, reinstallation of bases, and other groundskeeping work).

Tsunami Saipan still training, eyes Guam meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It's business as usual for Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan, as its members continue to train and are hoping to compete in the Guam Invitational Meet early next year.

Not even the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu and the closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool could prevent Tsunami Saipan swimmers from having regular training sessions for the 2018-2019 season. Head coach Hiro Kimura said their swimmers have been practicing daily since Nov. 10 at a pool in one of the hotels on Saipan. Each training session is held for two hours and a half and despite the limited time and the not so "ideal" pool condition, Tsunami Saipan swimmers are thriving, according to Kimura.

"We may be practicing in the not so real swimming pool, but we work hard every practice. We are swimming every day and all swimmers are fine. As for the results of the training sessions, every swimmer's level is improving," Kimura said.

For this season, Tsunami Saipan has nearly 60 members in its stable and they are divided into five groups. The "sensyu" is the top class with 15 members and has Nelson Batallones and Aika Watanabe as captain and vice, respectively. The "jyun-sensyu" is made up of 10 swimmers with BB level times, while "ikusei-1" and "ikusei-2 have a total of 16 members that work on four strokes and have completed the 200m individual medley race. Rounding out Tsunami Saipan's roster for the season are 16 members of the beginners group.

Kimura is planning to have more than half of its members compete in the Guam Invitational Meet that will be hosted by Guam Swimming Federation on Jan. 12.

"We are planning to bring 30 in the Guam meet and we are looking forward to getting good results in the competition," Kimura said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan members wait for their turn to swim during a training session in a pool in one of the hotels in Garapan.